BOOM! BOX™

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FENCE™

THREE

FENCE™

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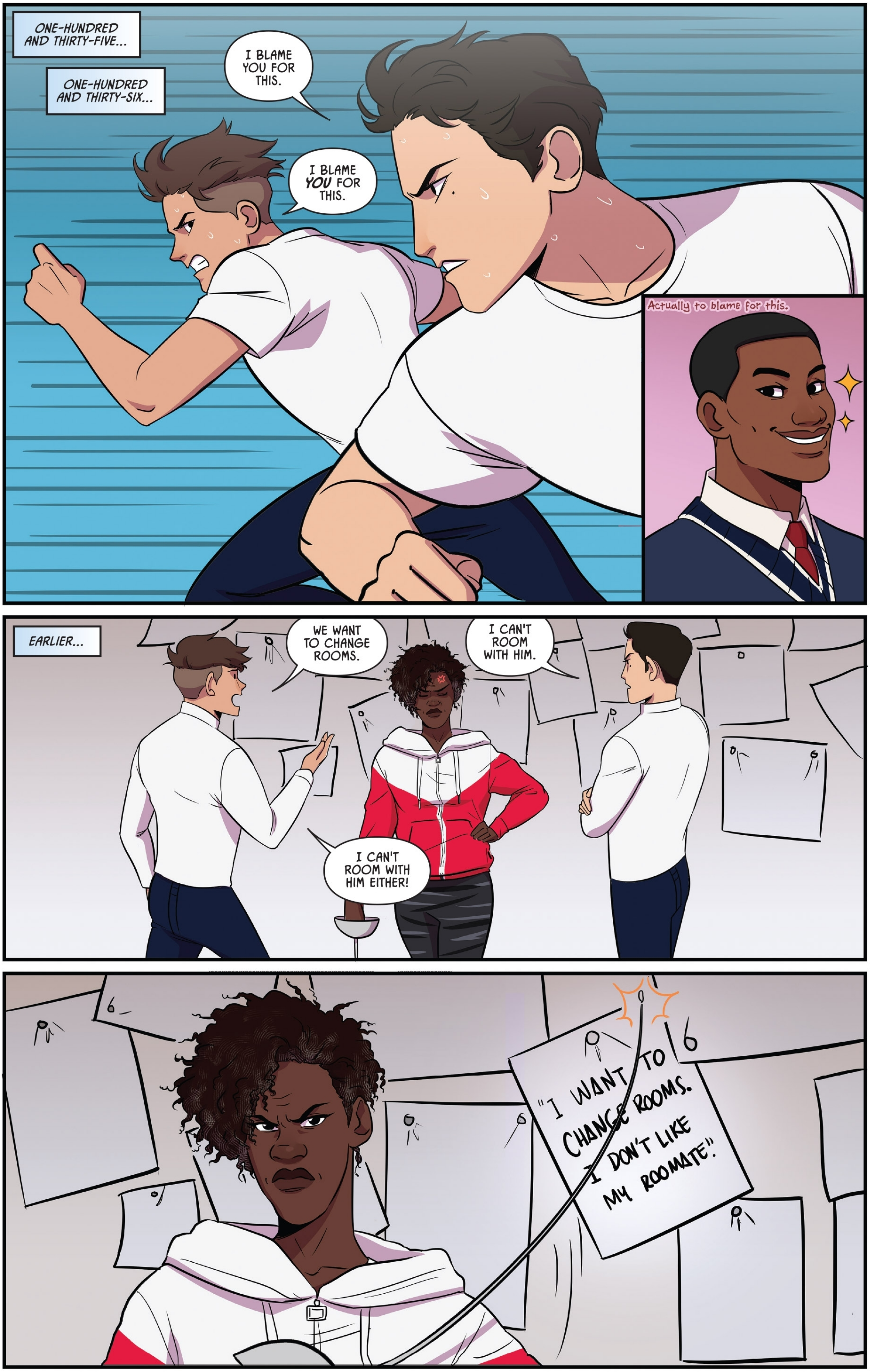
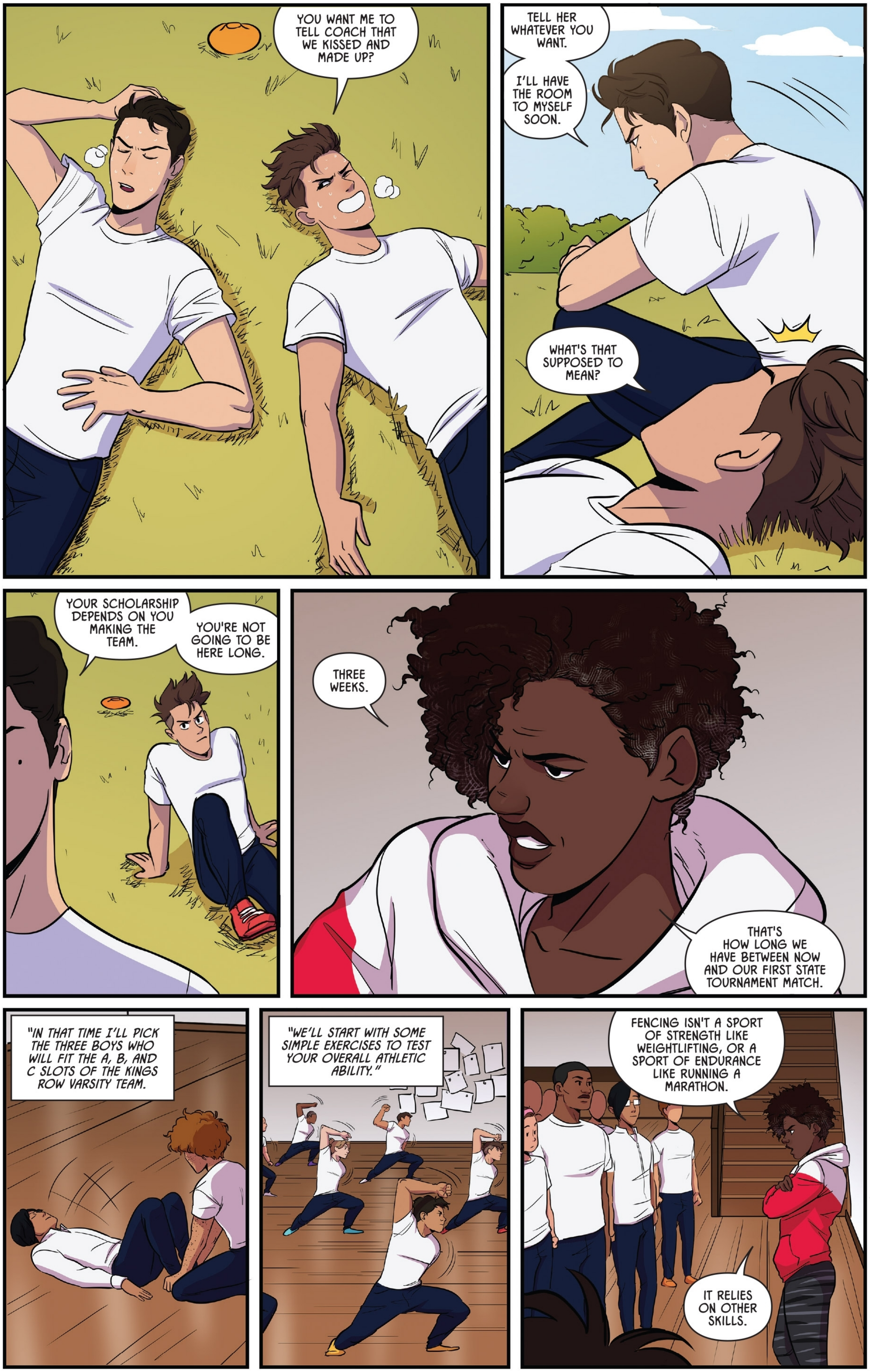
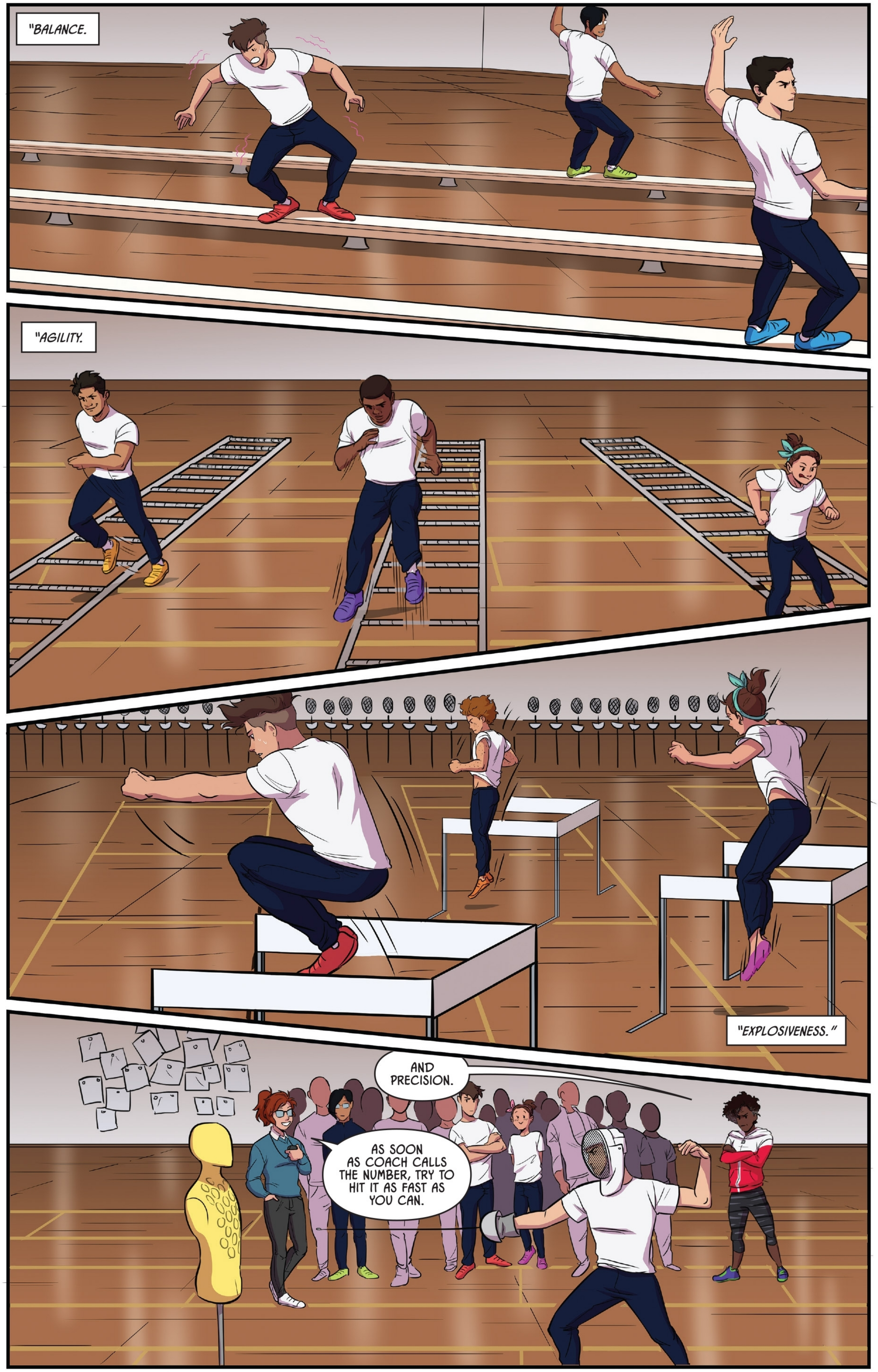
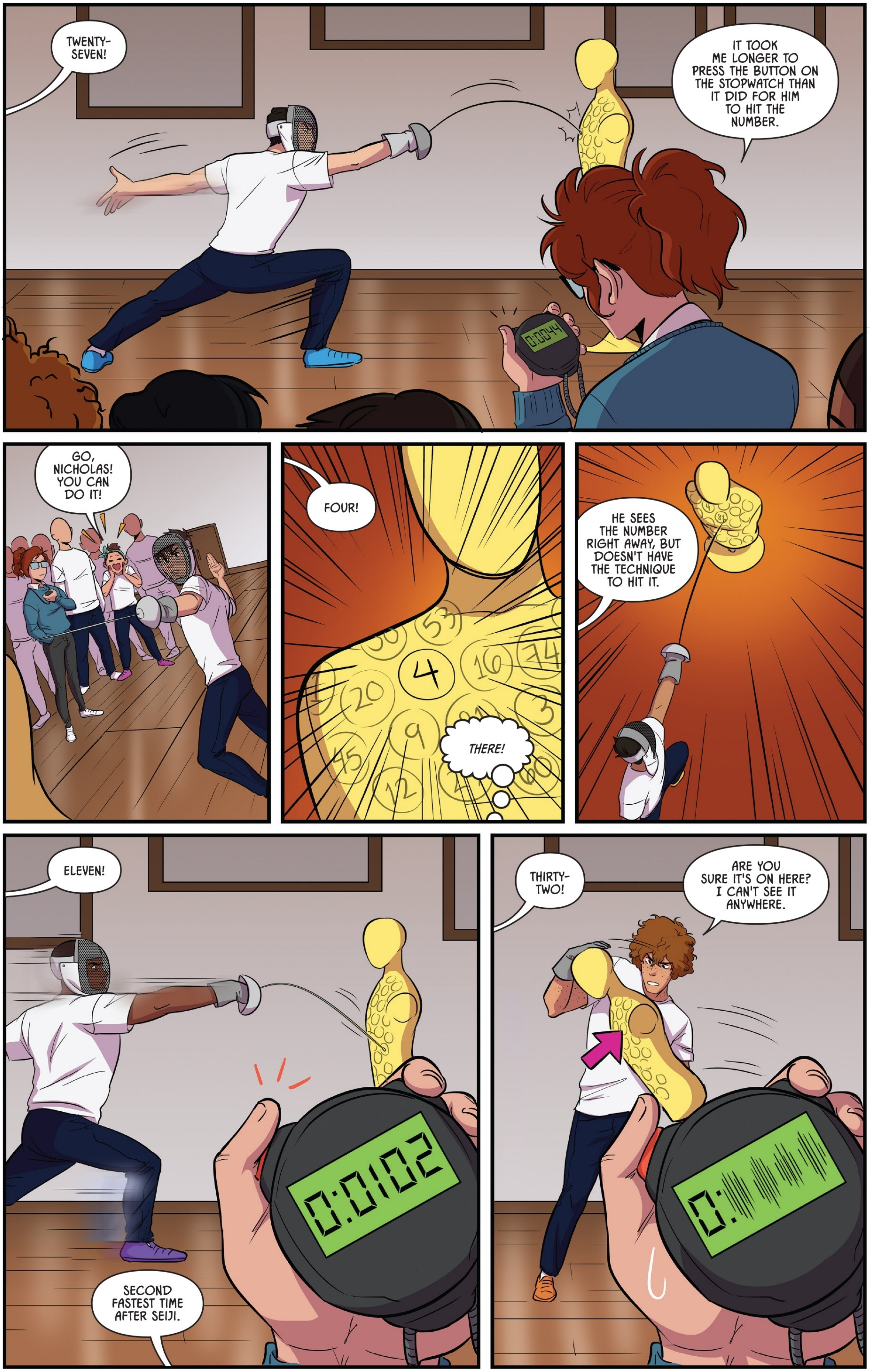
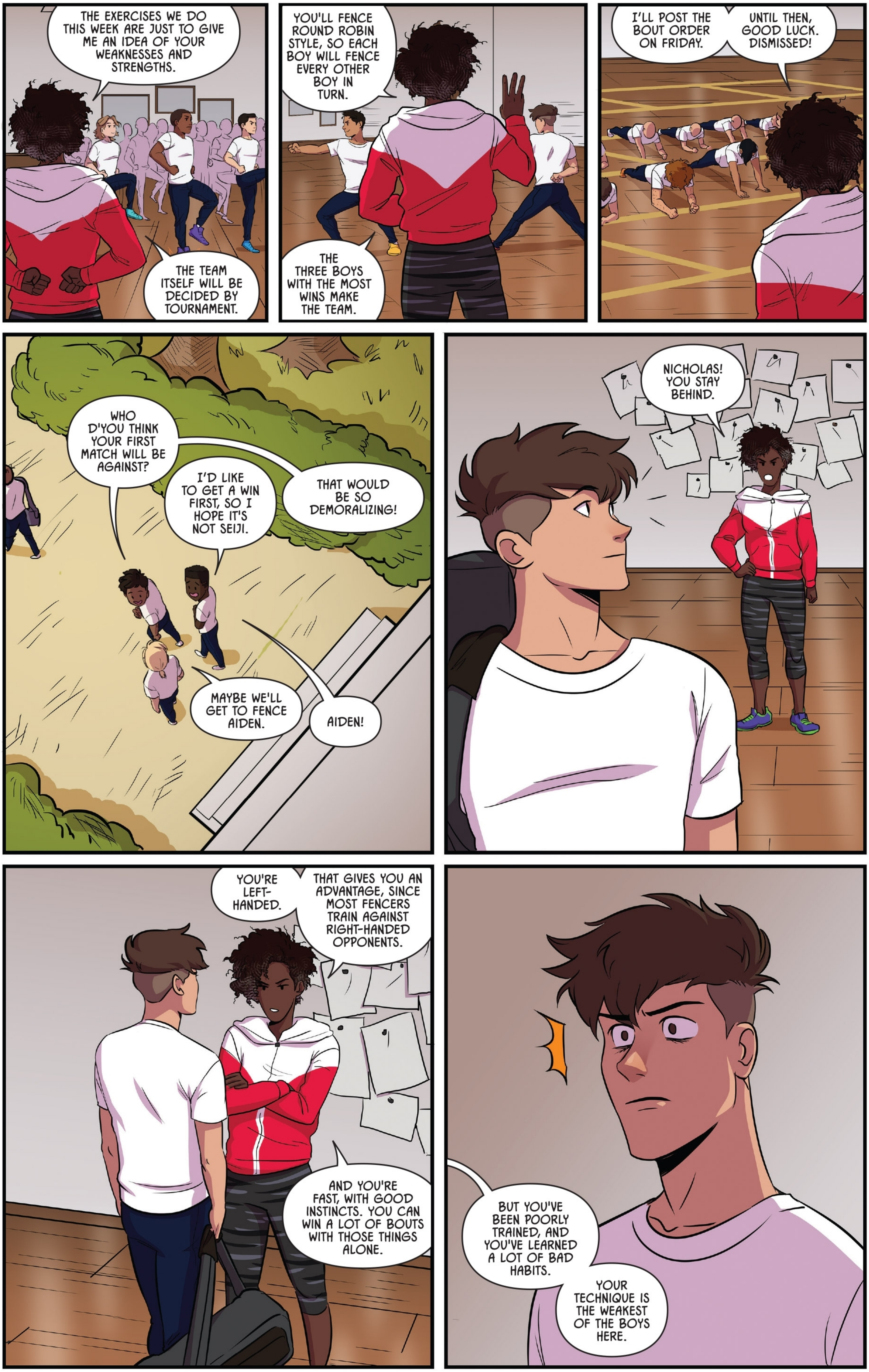
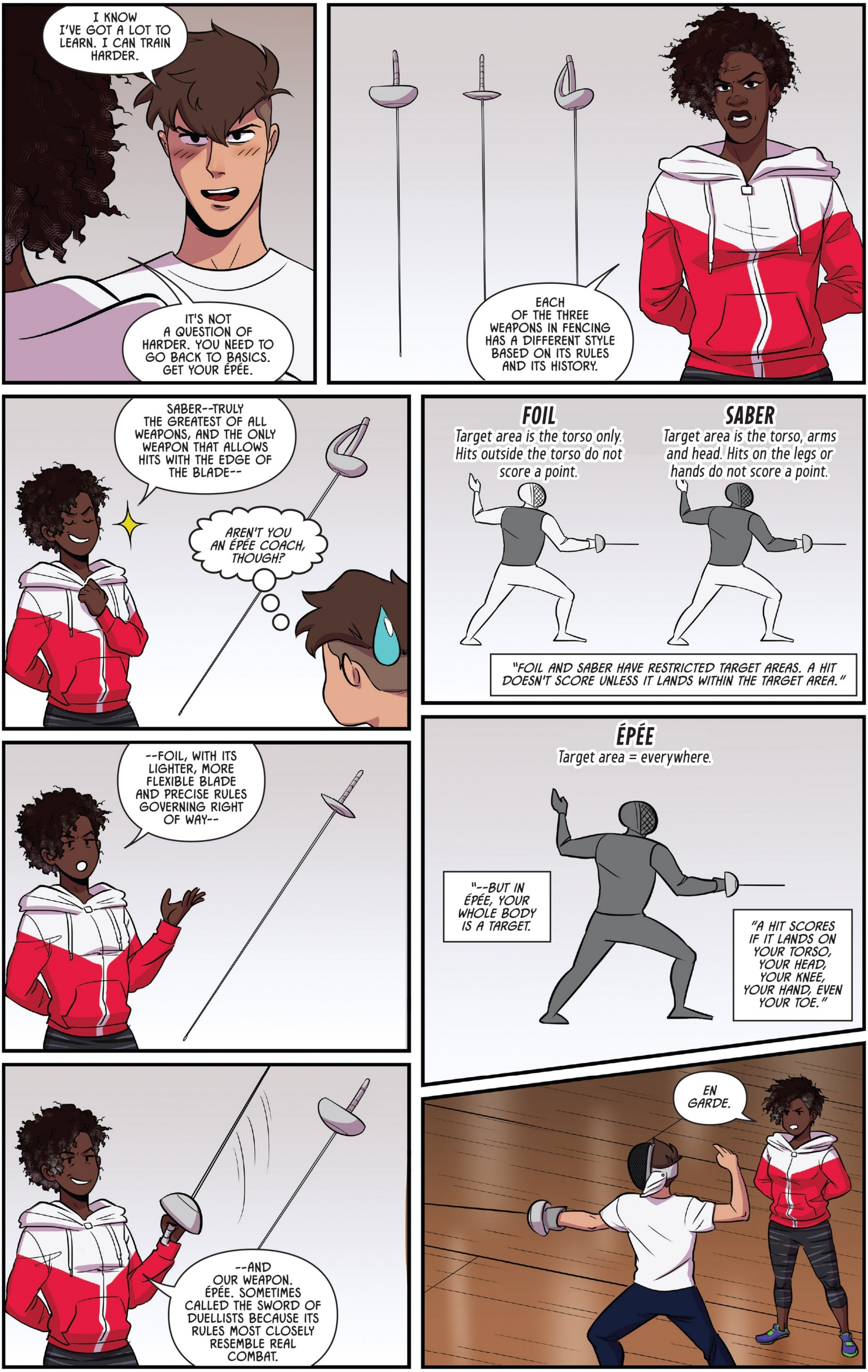

ONE-HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE...
ONE-HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX...
I BLAME YOU FOR THIS.
I BLAME *YOU* FOR THIS.
Actually to blame for this.
EARLIER...
WE WANT TO CHANGE ROOMS.
I CAN'T ROOM WITH HIM.
I CAN'T ROOM WITH HIM EITHER!
"I WANT TO CHANGE ROOMS. I DON'T LIKE MY ROOMATE".
6

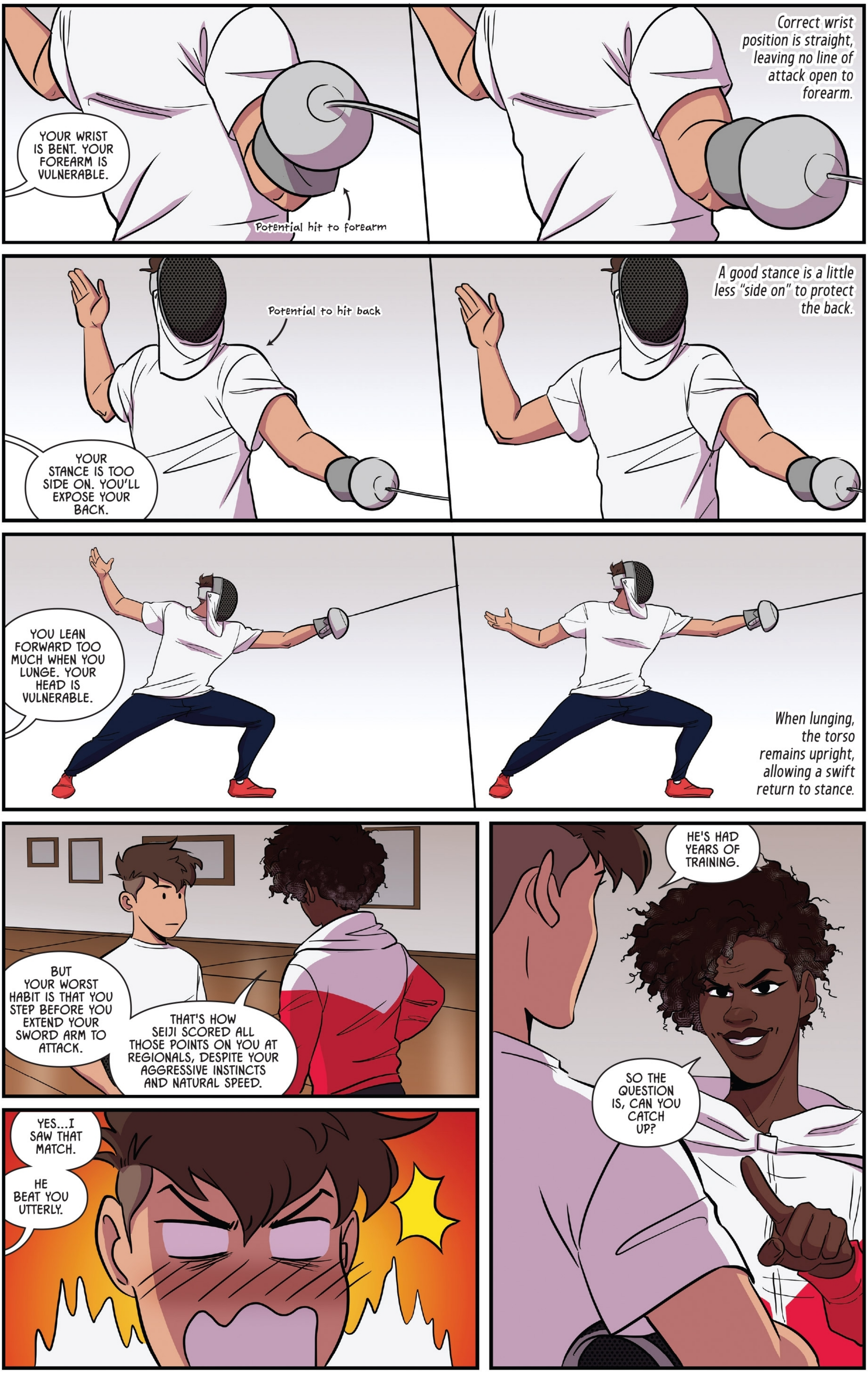

YOU WANT ME TO TELL COACH THAT WE KISSED AND MADE UP?
TELL HER WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I'LL HAVE THE ROOM TO MYSELF SOON.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
YOUR SCHOLARSHIP DEPENDS ON YOU MAKING THE TEAM.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE HERE LONG.
THREE WEEKS.
THAT'S HOW LONG WE HAVE BETWEEN NOW AND OUR FIRST STATE TOURNAMENT MATCH.
"IN THAT TIME I'LL PICK THE THREE BOYS WHO WILL FIT THE A, B, AND C SLOTS OF THE KINGS ROW VARSITY TEAM.
"WE'LL START WITH SOME SIMPLE EXERCISES TO TEST YOUR OVERALL ATHLETIC ABILITY."
FENCING ISN'T A SPORT OF STRENGTH LIKE WEIGHTLIFTING, OR A SPORT OF ENDURANCE LIKE RUNNING A MARATHON.
IT RELIES ON OTHER SKILLS.

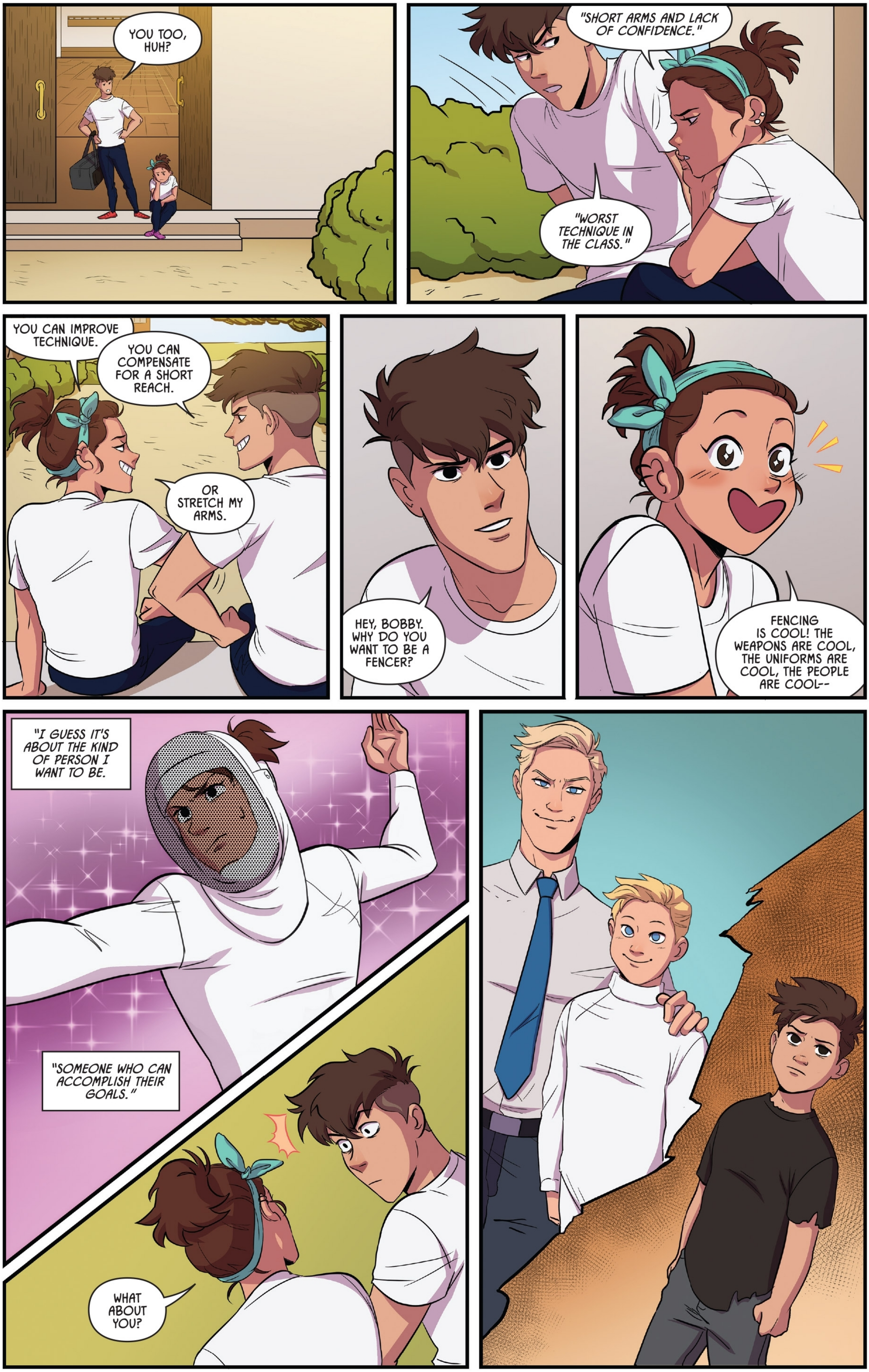

"BALANCE.
"AGILITY.
"EXPLOSIVENESS."
AND PRECISION.
AS SOON AS COACH CALLS THE NUMBER, TRY TO HIT IT AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

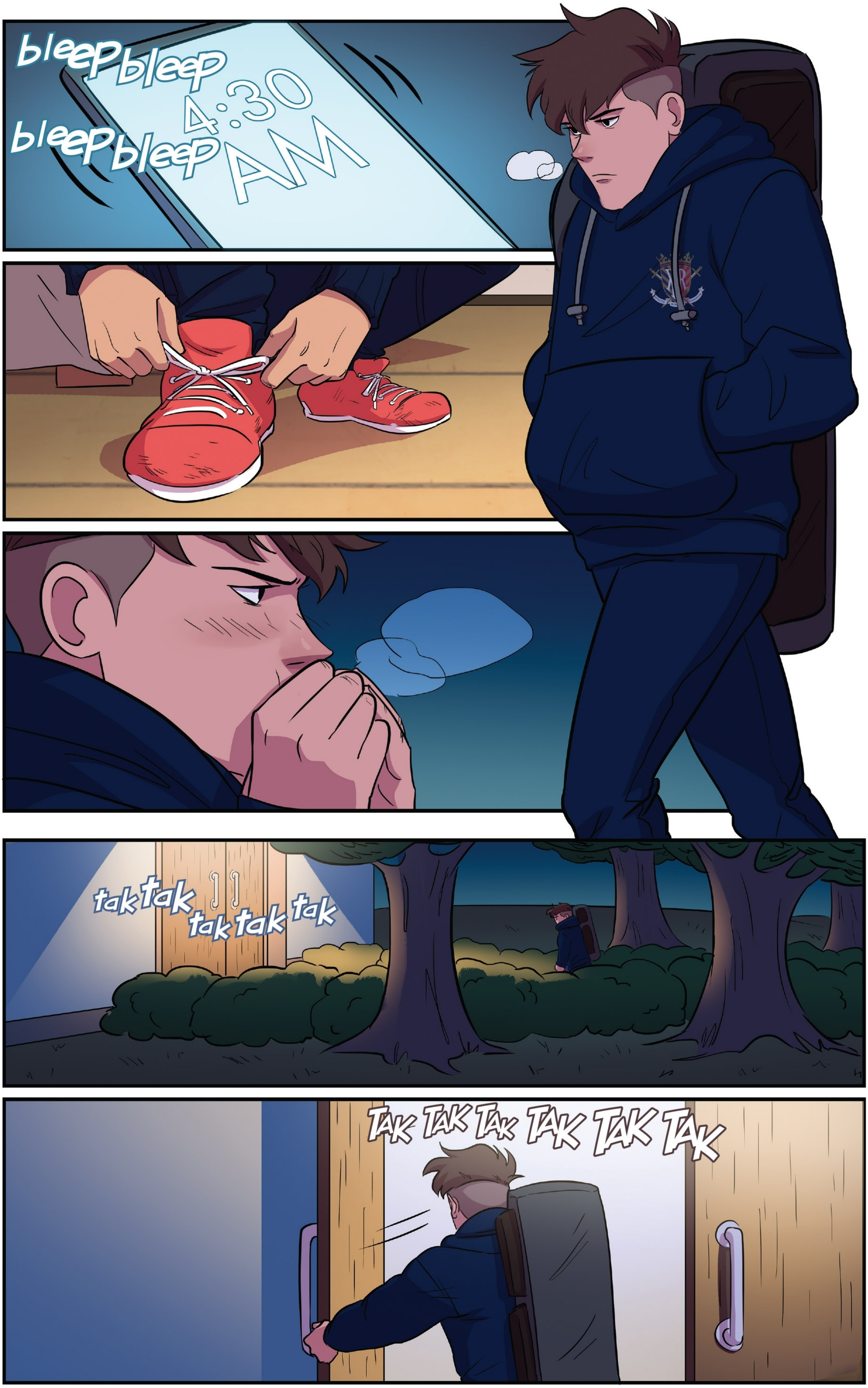

TWENTY-SEVEN!
IT TOOK ME LONGER TO PRESS THE BUTTON ON THE STOPWATCH THAN IT DID FOR HIM TO HIT THE NUMBER.
0:0044
GO, NICHOLAS! YOU CAN DO IT!
FOUR!
THERE!
HE SEES THE NUMBER RIGHT AWAY, BUT DOESN'T HAVE THE TECHNIQUE TO HIT IT.
ELEVEN!
0:0102
SECOND FASTEST TIME AFTER SEIJI.
THIRTY-TWO!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S ON HERE? I CAN'T SEE IT ANYWHERE.
0:

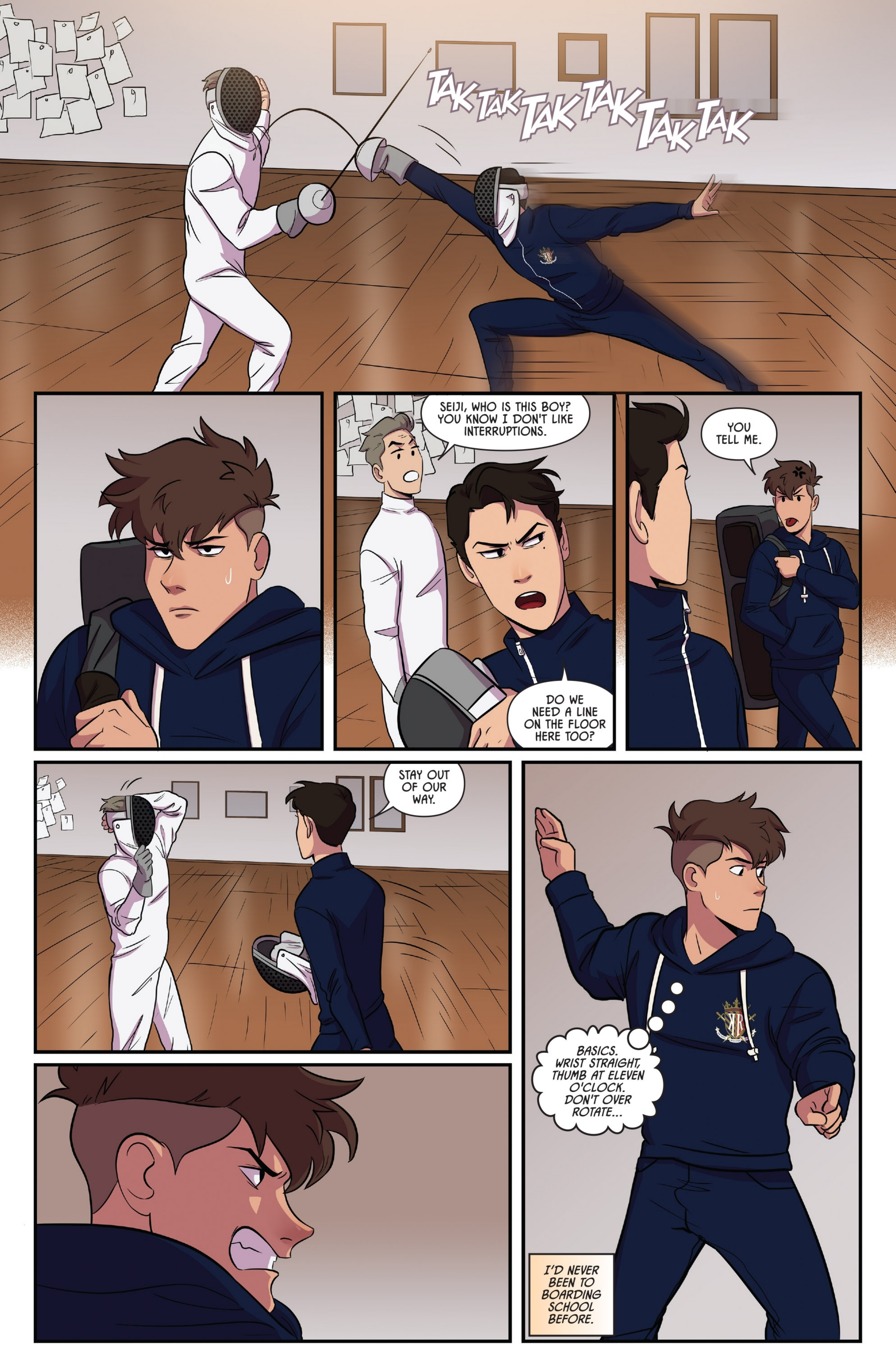

THE EXERCISES WE DO THIS WEEK ARE JUST TO GIVE ME AN IDEA OF YOUR WEAKNESSES AND STRENGTHS.
THE TEAM ITSELF WILL BE DECIDED BY TOURNAMENT.
YOU'LL FENCE ROUND ROBIN STYLE, SO EACH BOY WILL FENCE EVERY OTHER BOY IN TURN.
THE THREE BOYS WITH THE MOST WINS MAKE THE TEAM.
I'LL POST THE BOUT ORDER ON FRIDAY.
UNTIL THEN, GOOD LUCK. DISMISSED!
WHO D'YOU THINK YOUR FIRST MATCH WILL BE AGAINST?
I'D LIKE TO GET A WIN FIRST, SO I HOPE IT'S NOT SEIJI.
THAT WOULD BE SO DEMORALIZING!
MAYBE WE'LL GET TO FENCE AIDEN.
AIDEN!
NICHOLAS! YOU STAY BEHIND.
YOU'RE LEFT-HANDED.
THAT GIVES YOU AN ADVANTAGE, SINCE MOST FENCERS TRAIN AGAINST RIGHT-HANDED OPPONENTS.
AND YOU'RE FAST, WITH GOOD INSTINCTS. YOU CAN WIN A LOT OF BOUTS WITH THOSE THINGS ALONE.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN POORLY TRAINED, AND YOU'VE LEARNED A LOT OF BAD HABITS.
YOUR TECHNIQUE IS THE WEAKEST OF THE BOYS HERE.

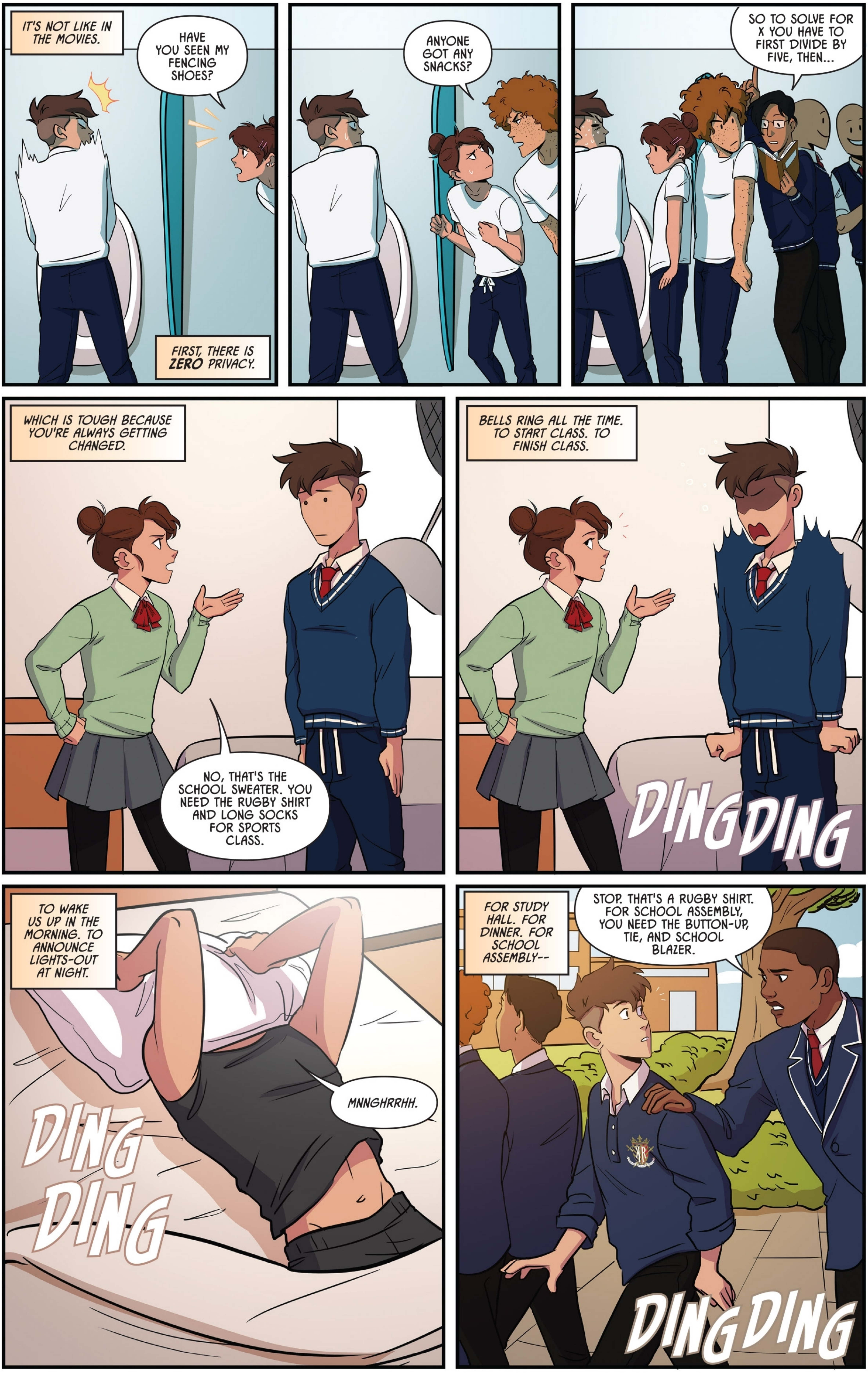

I KNOW I'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN. I CAN TRAIN HARDER.
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF HARDER. YOU NEED TO GO BACK TO BASICS. GET YOUR ÉPÉE.
EACH OF THE THREE WEAPONS IN FENCING HAS A DIFFERENT STYLE BASED ON ITS RULES AND ITS HISTORY.
SABER--TRULY THE GREATEST OF ALL WEAPONS, AND THE ONLY WEAPON THAT ALLOWS HITS WITH THE EDGE OF THE BLADE--
AREN'T YOU AN ÉPÉE COACH, THOUGH?
--FOIL, WITH ITS LIGHTER, MORE FLEXIBLE BLADE AND PRECISE RULES GOVERNING RIGHT OF WAY--
--AND OUR WEAPON. ÉPÉE. SOMETIMES CALLED THE SWORD OF DUELLISTS BECAUSE ITS RULES MOST CLOSELY RESEMBLE REAL COMBAT.
FOIL
Target area is the torso only. Hits outside the torso do not score a point.
SABER
Target area is the torso, arms and head. Hits on the legs or hands do not score a point.
"FOIL AND SABER HAVE RESTRICTED TARGET AREAS. A HIT DOESN'T SCORE UNLESS IT LANDS WITHIN THE TARGET AREA."
ÉPÉE
Target area = everywhere.
"--BUT IN ÉPÉE, YOUR WHOLE BODY IS A TARGET.
"A HIT SCORES IF IT LANDS ON YOUR TORSO, YOUR HEAD, YOUR KNEE, YOUR HAND, EVEN YOUR TOE."
EN GARDE.

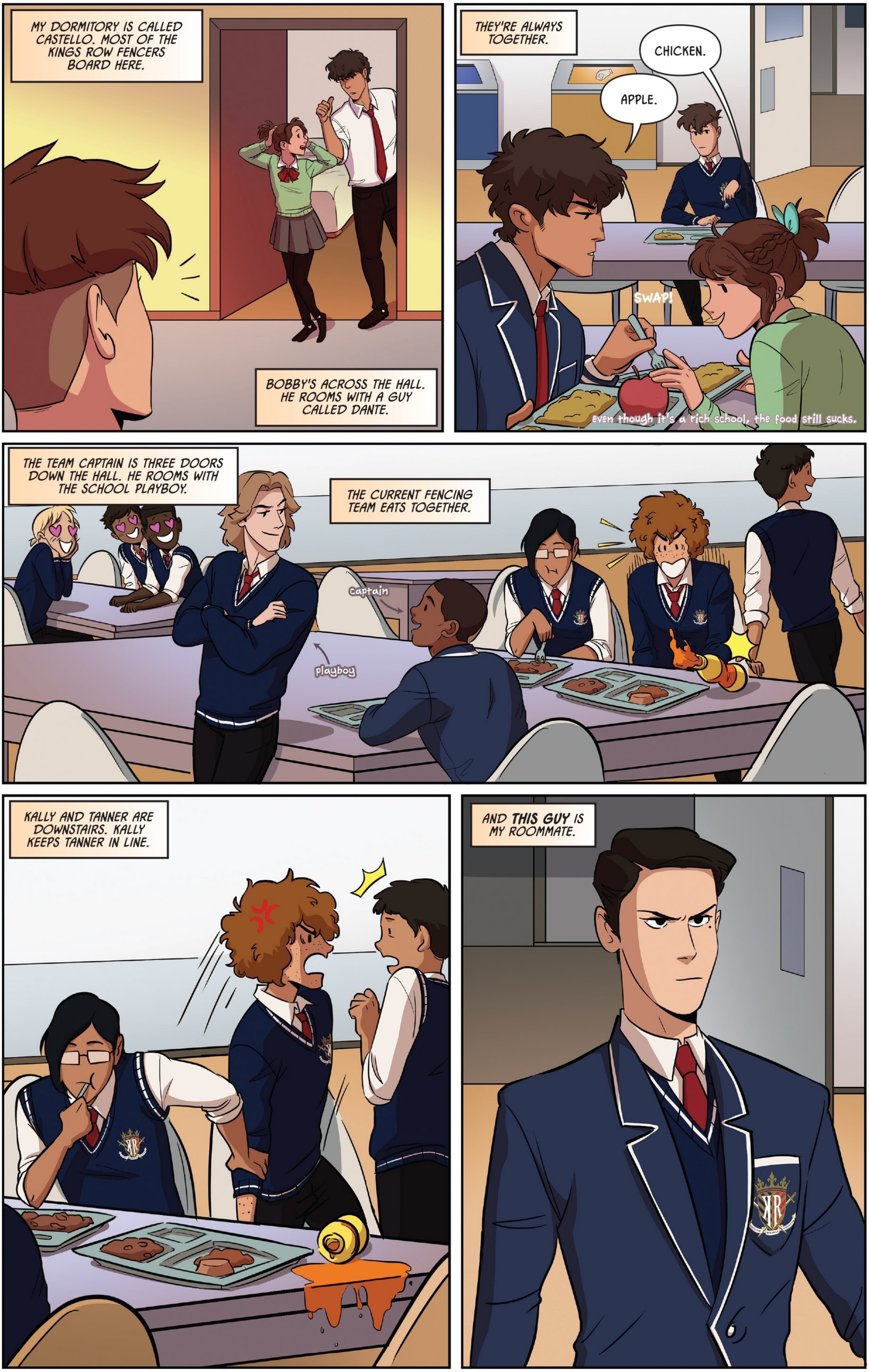

YOUR WRIST IS BENT. YOUR FOREARM IS VULNERABLE.
Potential hit to forearm
Correct wrist position is straight, leaving no line of attack open to forearm.
Potential to hit back
YOUR STANCE IS TOO SIDE ON. YOU'LL EXPOSE YOUR BACK.
A good stance is a little less "side on" to protect the back.
YOU LEAN FORWARD TOO MUCH WHEN YOU LUNGE. YOUR HEAD IS VULNERABLE.
When lunging, the torso remains upright, allowing a swift return to stance.
BUT YOUR WORST HABIT IS THAT YOU STEP BEFORE YOU EXTEND YOUR SWORD ARM TO ATTACK.
THAT'S HOW SEIJI SCORED ALL THOSE POINTS ON YOU AT REGIONALS, DESPITE YOUR AGGRESSIVE INSTINCTS AND NATURAL SPEED.
YES...I SAW THAT MATCH.
HE BEAT YOU UTTERLY.
HE'S HAD YEARS OF TRAINING.
SO THE QUESTION IS, CAN YOU CATCH UP?

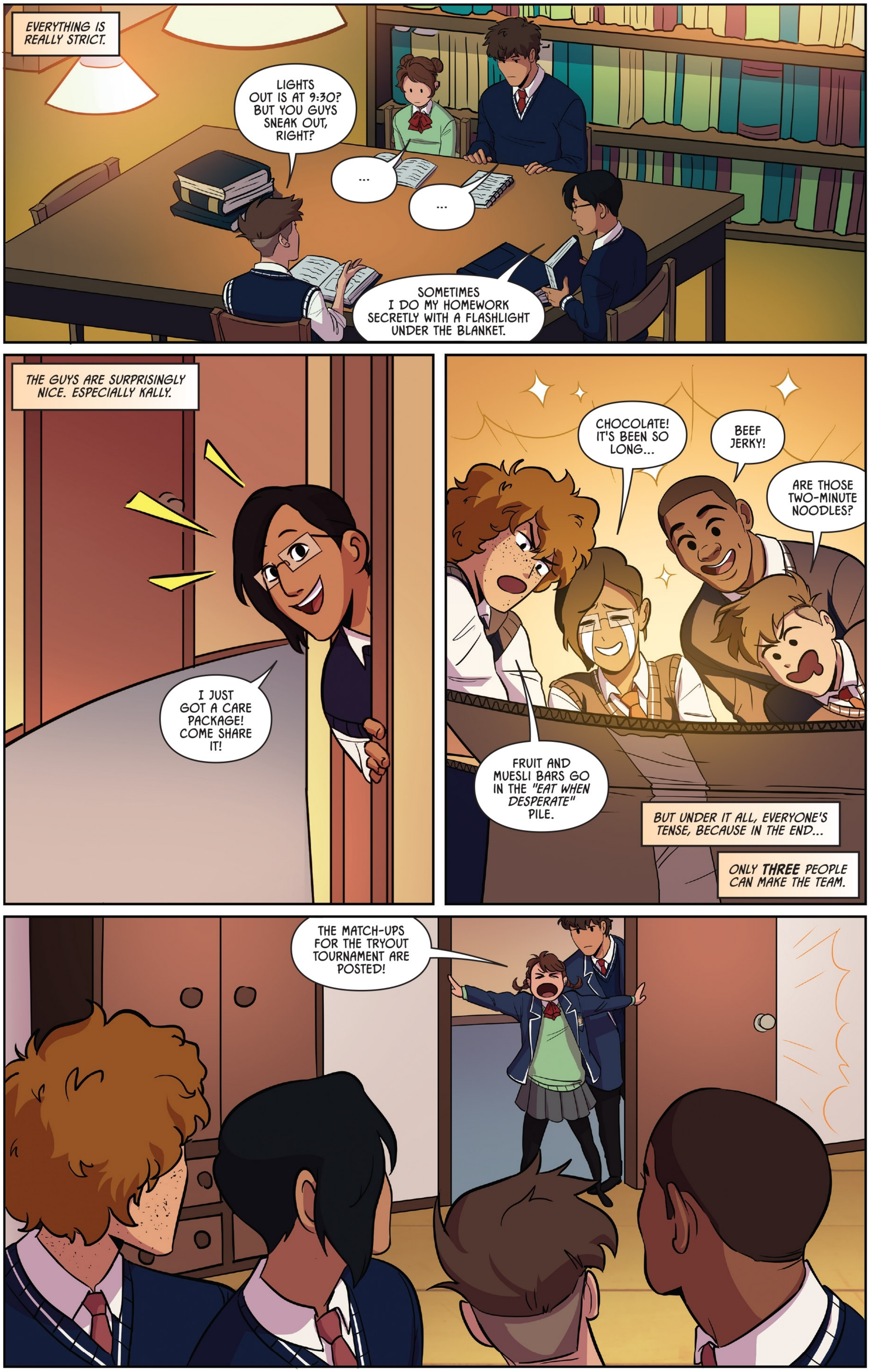

YOU TOO, HUH?
"SHORT ARMS AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE."
"WORST TECHNIQUE IN THE CLASS."
YOU CAN IMPROVE TECHNIQUE.
YOU CAN COMPENSATE FOR A SHORT REACH.
OR STRETCH MY ARMS.
HEY, BOBBY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A FENCER?
FENCING IS COOL! THE WEAPONS ARE COOL, THE UNIFORMS ARE COOL, THE PEOPLE ARE COOL--
"I GUESS IT'S ABOUT THE KIND OF PERSON I WANT TO BE.
"SOMEONE WHO CAN ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOALS."
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

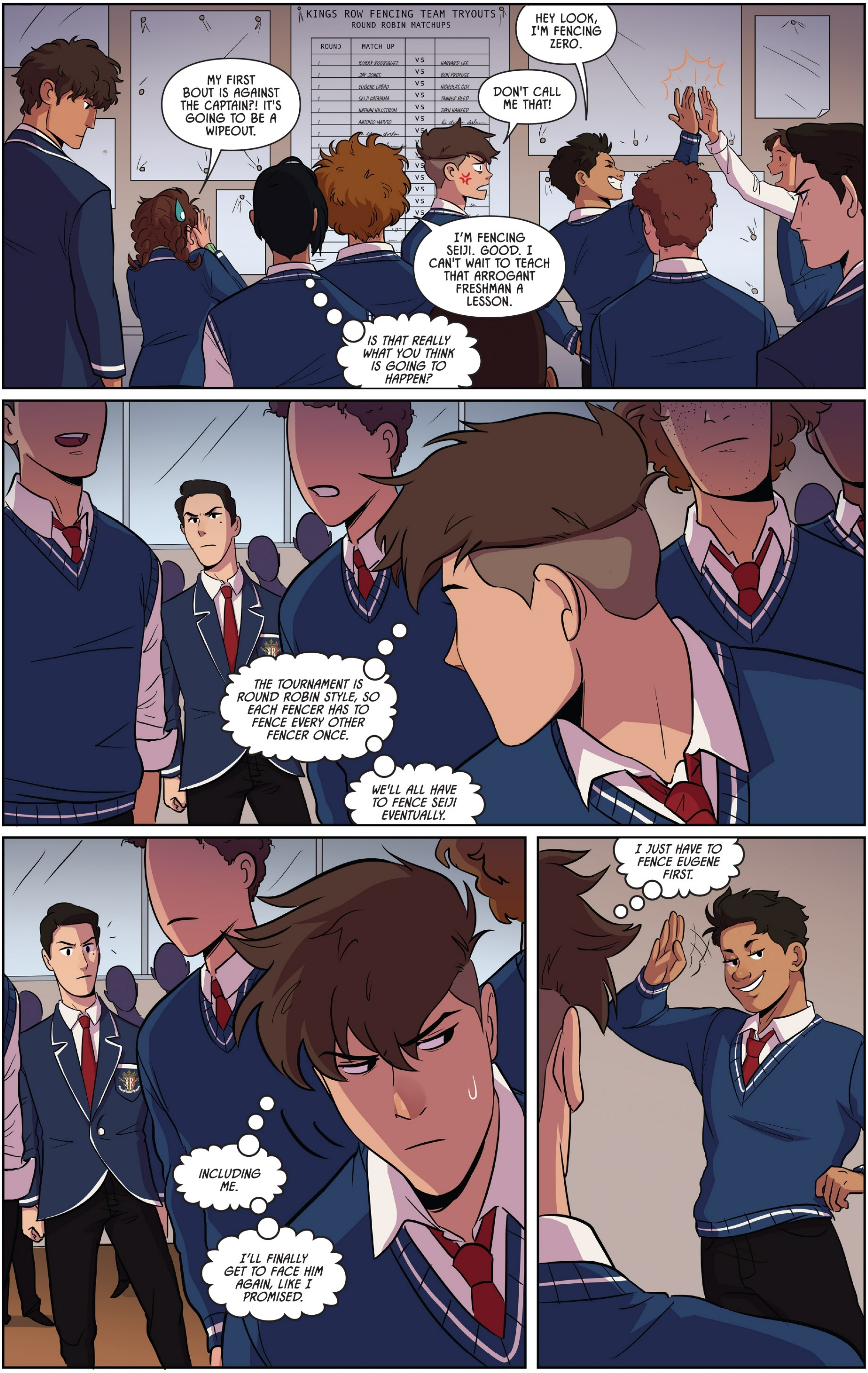

bleep bleep
bleep bleep
4:30 AM
tak tak tak tak tak tak
TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

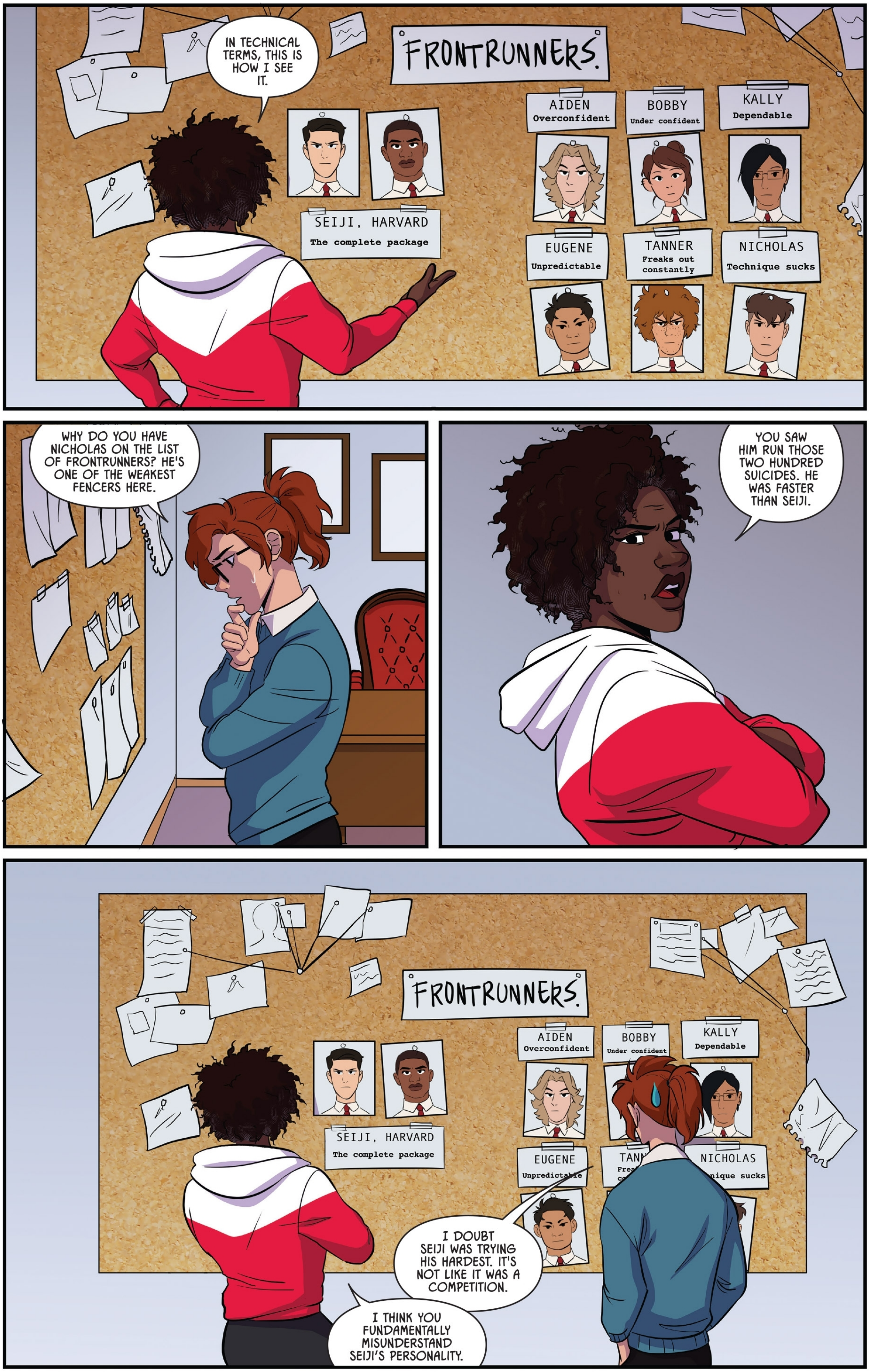

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK
SEIJI, WHO IS THIS BOY? YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE INTERRUPTIONS.
DO WE NEED A LINE ON THE FLOOR HERE TOO?
YOU TELL ME.
STAY OUT OF OUR WAY.
BASICS. WRIST STRAIGHT, THUMB AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK. DON'T OVER ROTATE...
I'D NEVER BEEN TO BOARDING SCHOOL BEFORE.

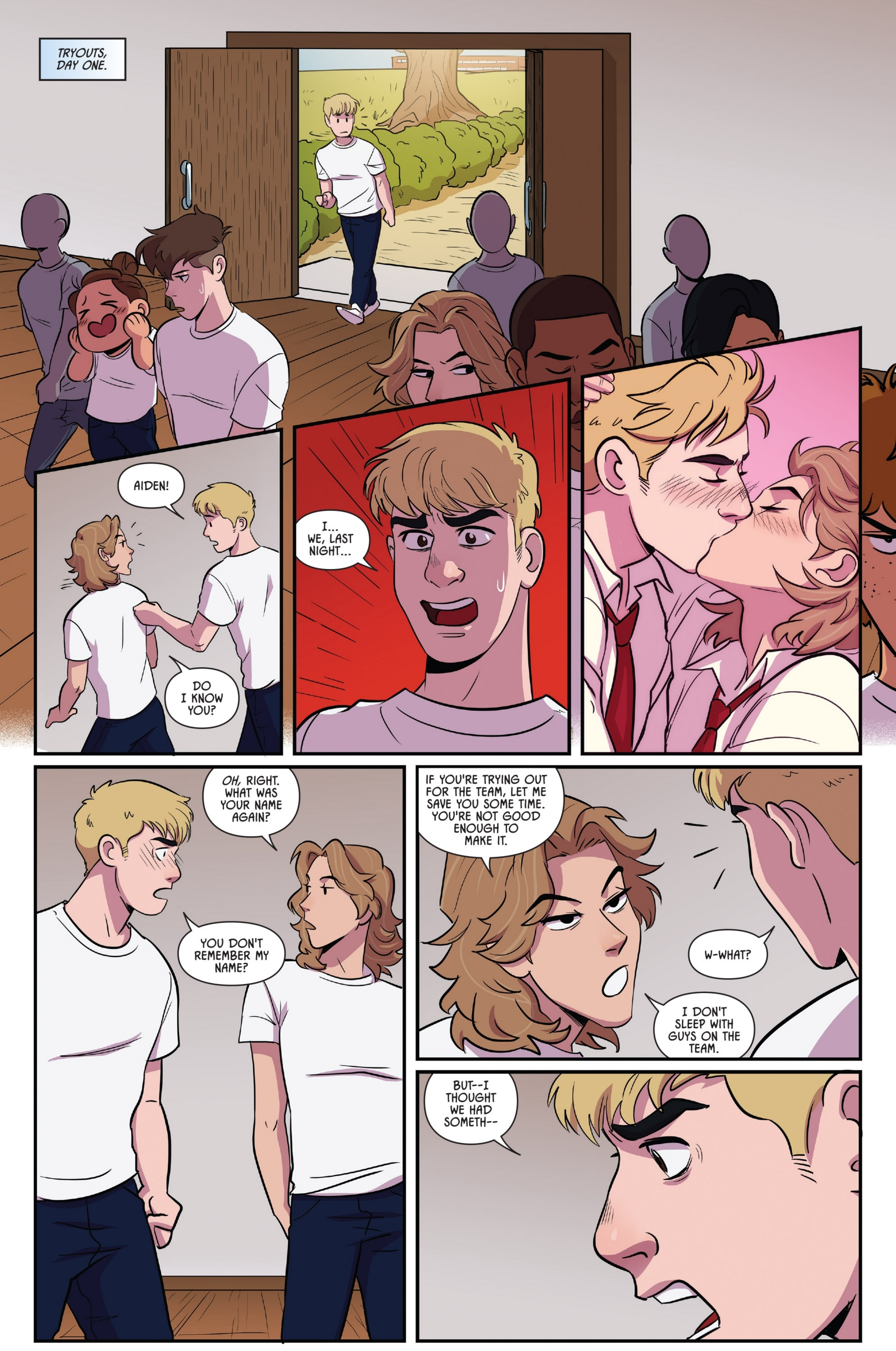

IT'S NOT LIKE IN THE MOVIES.
HAVE YOU SEEN MY FENCING SHOES?
FIRST, THERE IS **ZERO** PRIVACY.
ANYONE GOT ANY SNACKS?
SO TO SOLVE FOR X YOU HAVE TO FIRST DIVIDE BY FIVE, THEN...
WHICH IS TOUGH BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING CHANGED.
NO, THAT'S THE SCHOOL SWEATER. YOU NEED THE RUGBY SHIRT AND LONG SOCKS FOR SPORTS CLASS.
BELLS RING ALL THE TIME. TO START CLASS. TO FINISH CLASS.
DING DING
TO WAKE US UP IN THE MORNING. TO ANNOUNCE LIGHTS-OUT AT NIGHT.
MNNGHRRHH.
DING DING
FOR STUDY HALL. FOR DINNER. FOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY--
STOP. THAT'S A RUGBY SHIRT. FOR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY, YOU NEED THE BUTTON-UP, TIE, AND SCHOOL BLAZER.
DING DING

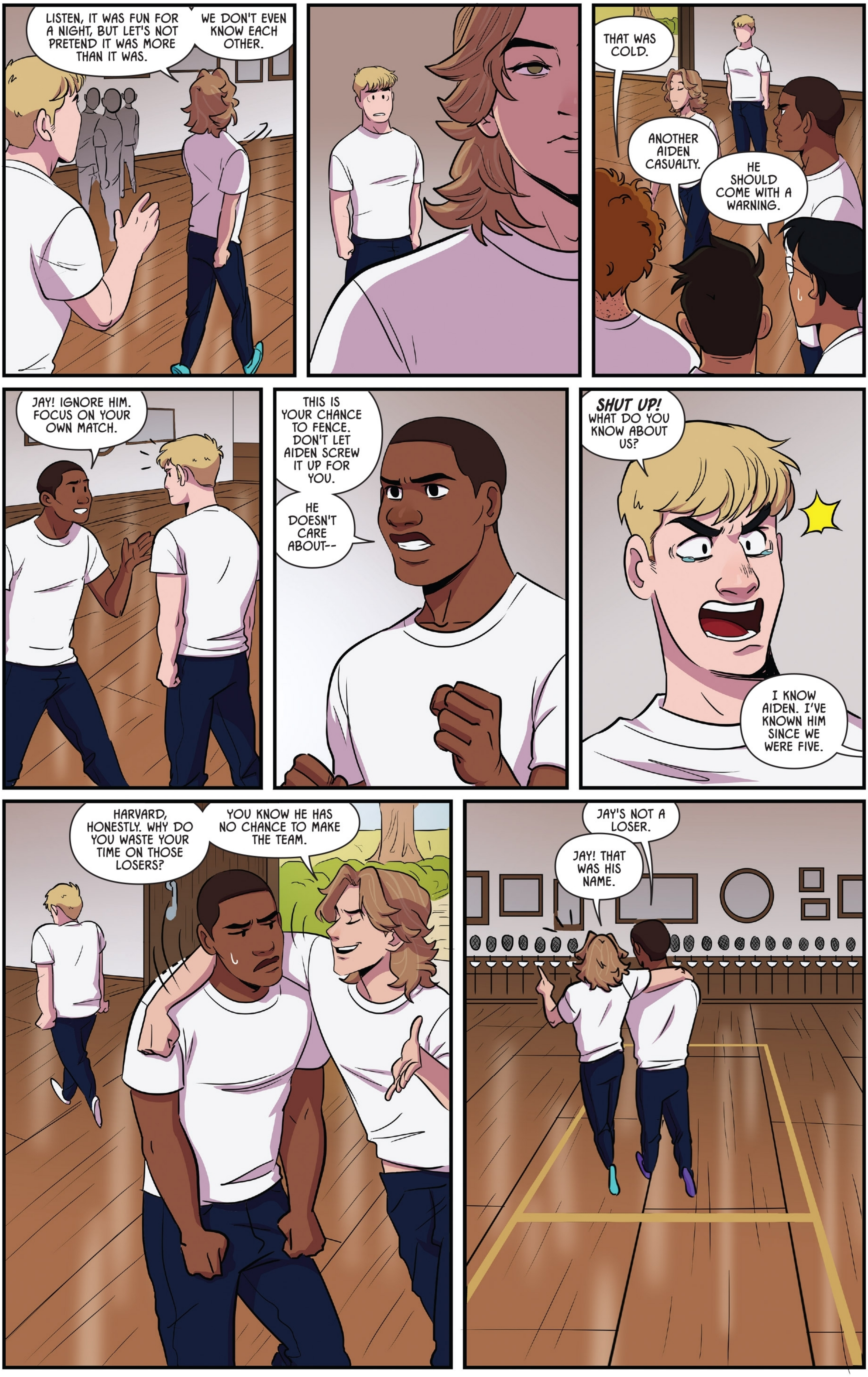

MY DORMITORY IS CALLED CASTELLO. MOST OF THE KINGS ROW FENCERS BOARD HERE.
BOBBY'S ACROSS THE HALL. HE ROOMS WITH A GUY CALLED DANTE.
THEY'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
CHICKEN.
APPLE.
SWAP!
even though it's a rich school, the food still sucks.
THE TEAM CAPTAIN IS THREE DOORS DOWN THE HALL. HE ROOMS WITH THE SCHOOL PLAYBOY.
THE CURRENT FENCING TEAM EATS TOGETHER.
captain
playboy
KALLY AND TANNER ARE DOWNSTAIRS. KALLY KEEPS TANNER IN LINE.
AND **THIS GUY** IS MY ROOMMATE.

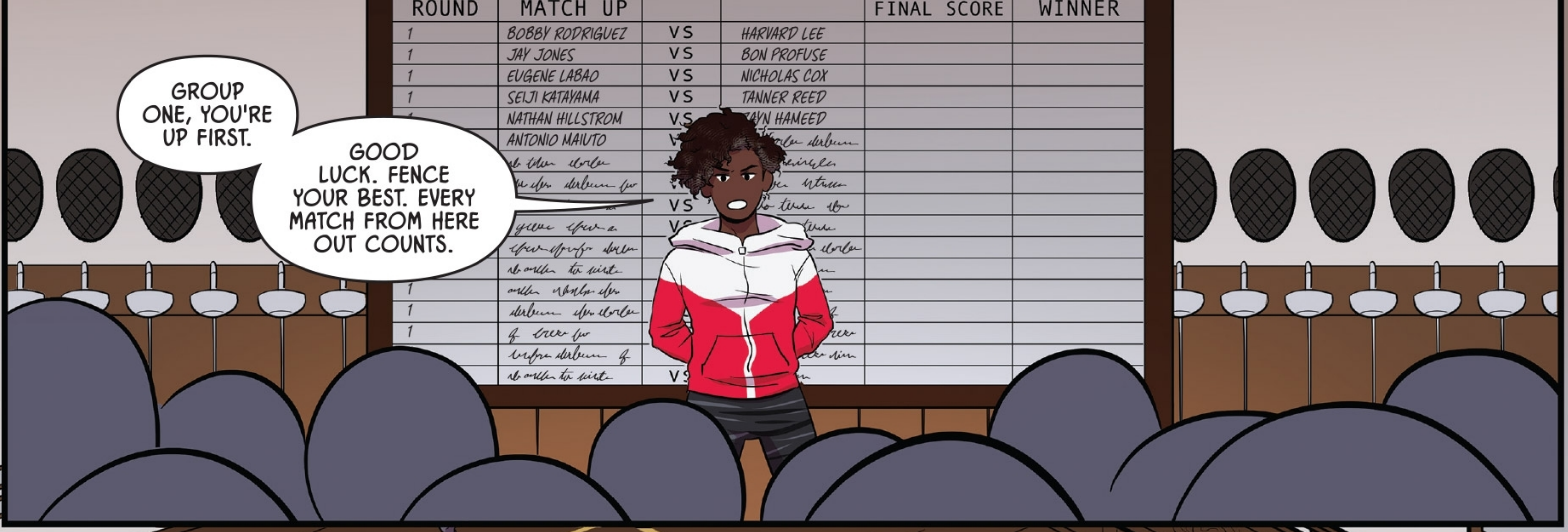

EVERYTHING IS REALLY STRICT.
LIGHTS OUT IS AT 9:30? BUT YOU GUYS SNEAK OUT, RIGHT?
...
...
SOMETIMES I DO MY HOMEWORK SECRETLY WITH A FLASHLIGHT UNDER THE BLANKET.
THE GUYS ARE SURPRISINGLY NICE. ESPECIALLY KALLY.
I JUST GOT A CARE PACKAGE! COME SHARE IT!
CHOCOLATE! IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
BEEF JERKY!
ARE THOSE TWO-MINUTE NOODLES?
FRUIT AND MUESLI BARS GO IN THE "EAT WHEN DESPERATE" PILE.
BUT UNDER IT ALL, EVERYONE'S TENSE, BECAUSE IN THE END...
ONLY THREE PEOPLE CAN MAKE THE TEAM.
THE MATCH-UPS FOR THE TRYOUT TOURNAMENT ARE POSTED!

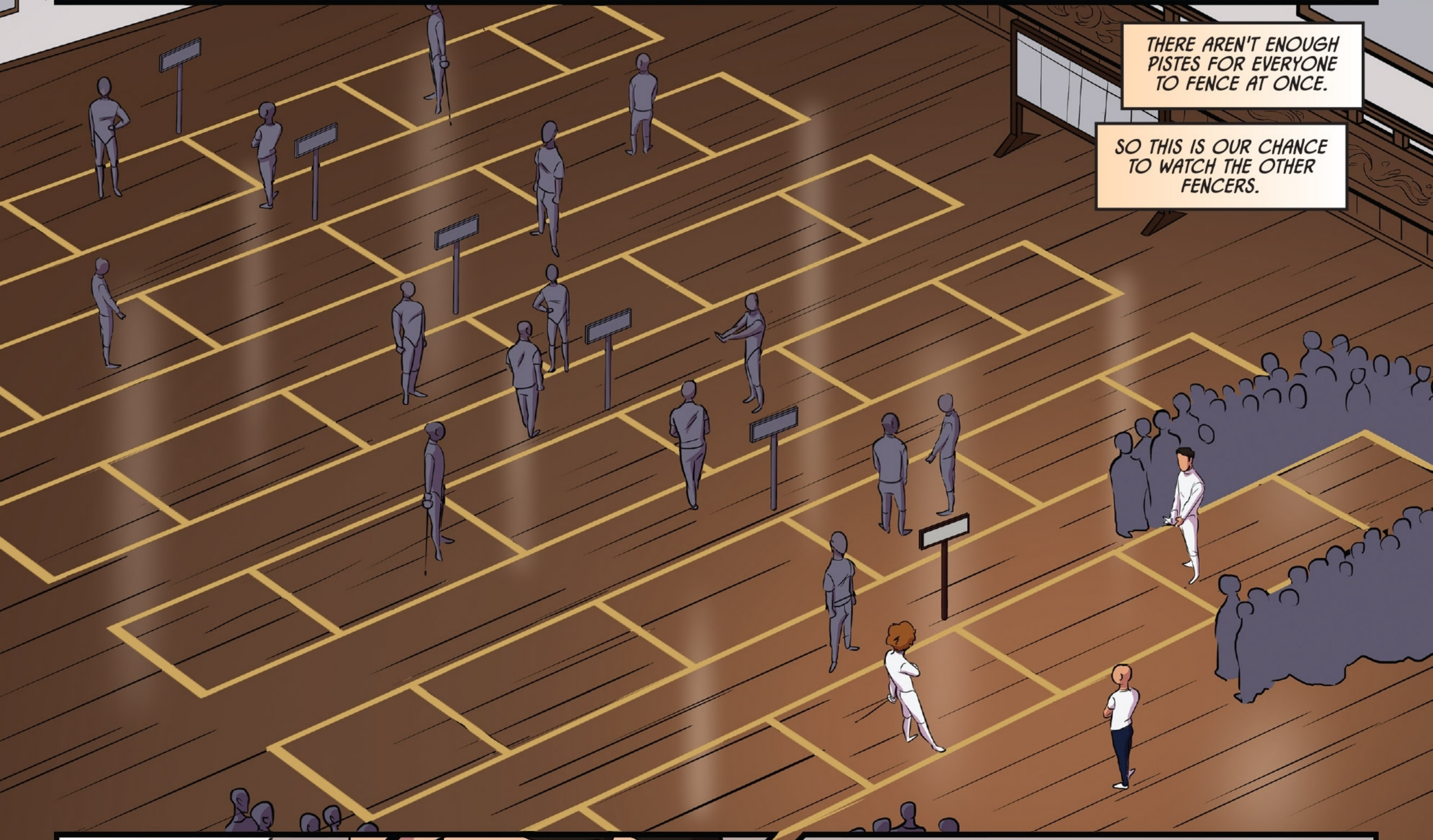

KINGS ROW FENCING TEAM TRYOUTS
ROUND ROBIN MATCHUPS
ROUND | MATCH UP
1 BOBBY RODRIGUEZ VS HARVARD LEE
1 JAY JONES VS BON PROFUSE
1 EUGENE LABAO VS NICHOLAS COX
1 SEIJI KATAYAMA VS TANNER REED
1 NATHAN HILLSTROM VS ZAYN HAMEED
1 ANTONIO MAIUTO VS
MY FIRST BOUT IS AGAINST THE CAPTAIN?! IT'S GOING TO BE A WIPEOUT.
HEY LOOK, I'M FENCING ZERO.
DON'T CALL ME THAT!
I'M FENCING SEIJI. GOOD. I CAN'T WAIT TO TEACH THAT ARROGANT FRESHMAN A LESSON.
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN?
THE TOURNAMENT IS ROUND ROBIN STYLE, SO EACH FENCER HAS TO FENCE EVERY OTHER FENCER ONCE.
WE'LL ALL HAVE TO FENCE SEIJI EVENTUALLY.
INCLUDING ME.
I'LL FINALLY GET TO FACE HIM AGAIN, LIKE I PROMISED.
I JUST HAVE TO FENCE EUGENE FIRST.

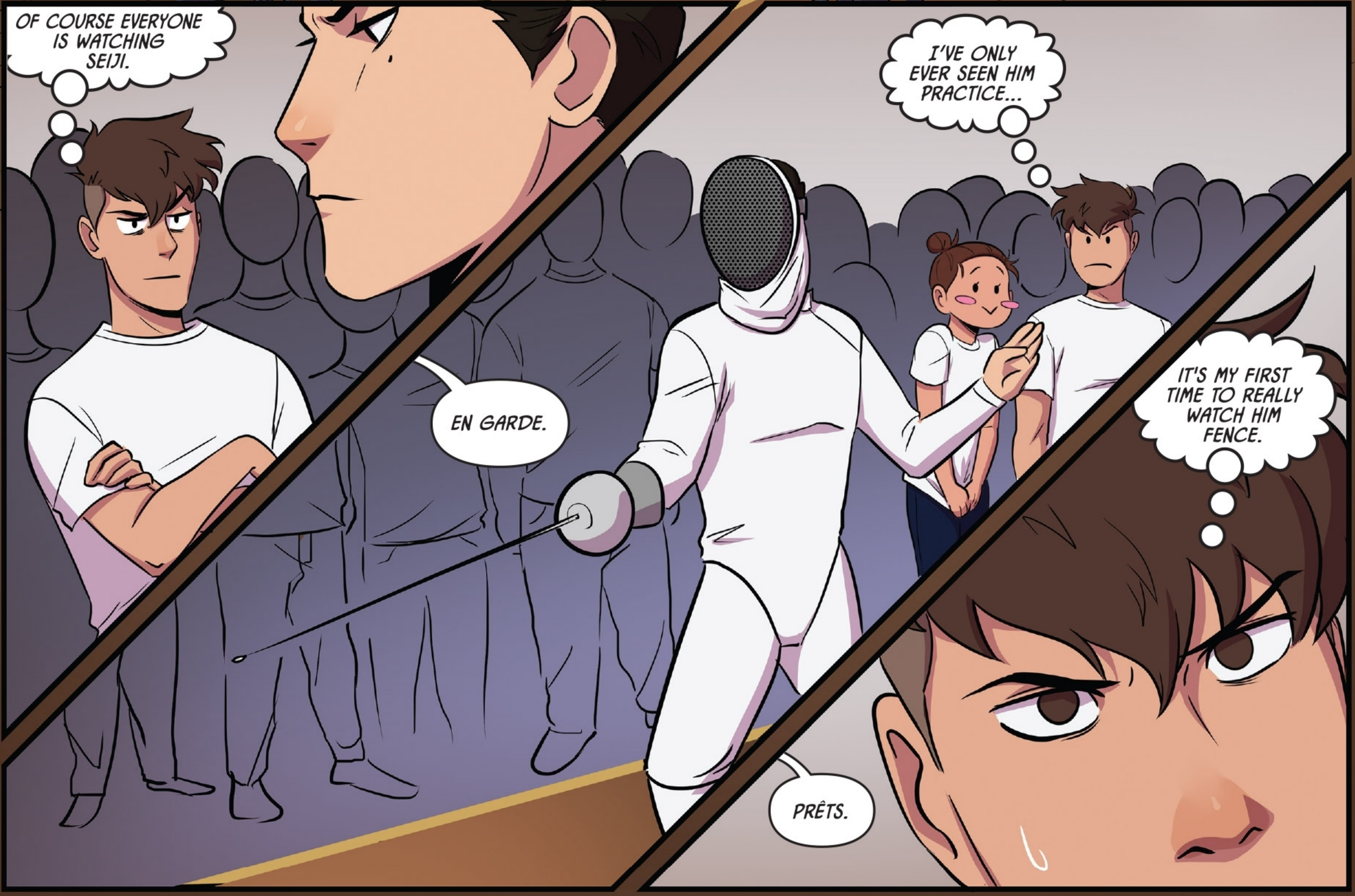

IN TECHNICAL TERMS, THIS IS HOW I SEE IT.
FRONTRUNNERS.
SEIJI, HARVARD
The complete package
AIDEN
Overconfident
BOBBY
Under confident
KALLY
Dependable
EUGENE
Unpredictable
TANNER
Freaks out constantly
NICHOLAS
Technique sucks
WHY DO YOU HAVE NICHOLAS ON THE LIST OF FRONTRUNNERS? HE'S ONE OF THE WEAKEST FENCERS HERE.
YOU SAW HIM RUN THOSE TWO HUNDRED SUICIDES. HE WAS FASTER THAN SEIJI.
I DOUBT SEIJI WAS TRYING HIS HARDEST. IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS A COMPETITION.
I THINK YOU FUNDAMENTALLY MISUNDERSTAND SEIJI'S PERSONALITY.

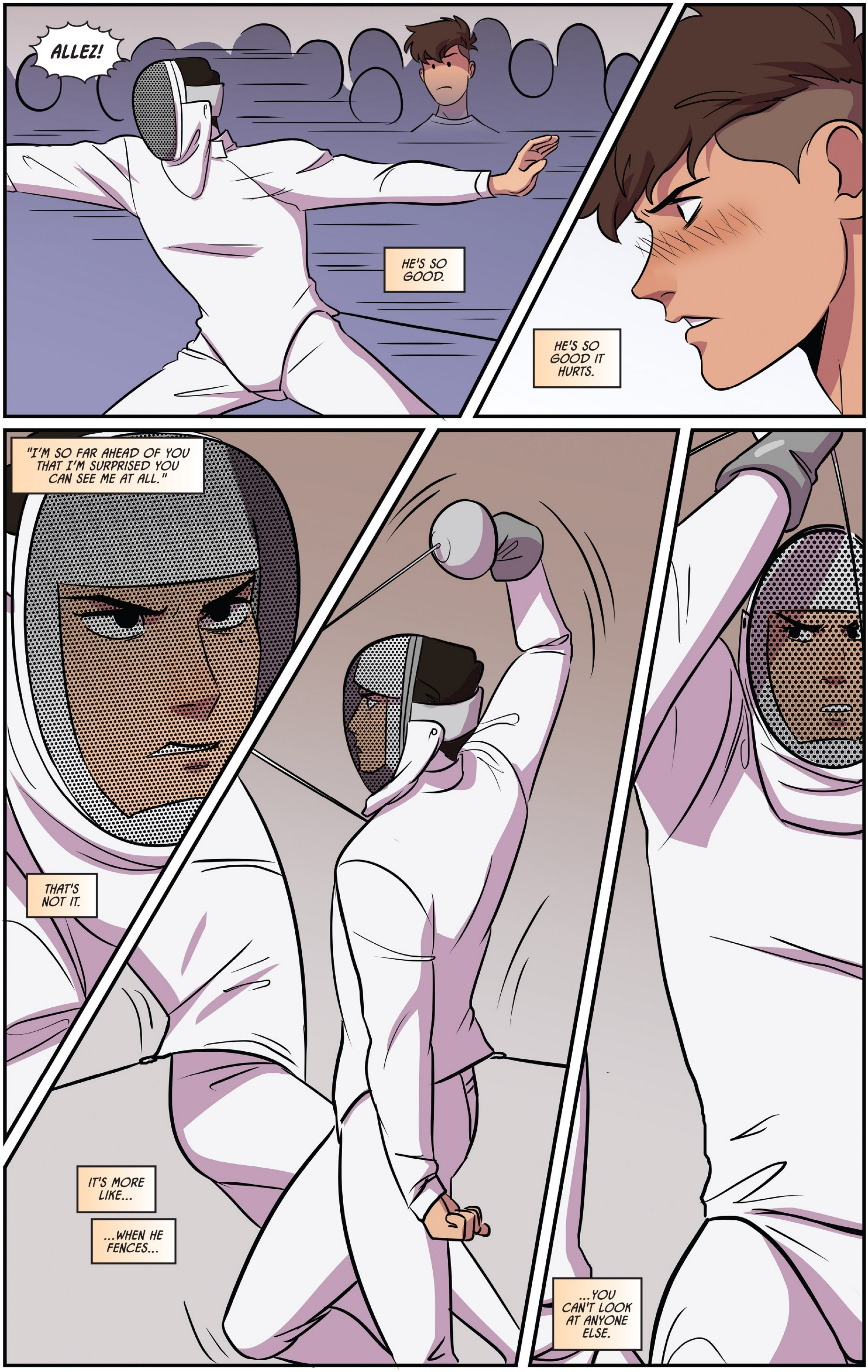

TRYOUTS, DAY ONE.
AIDEN!
DO I KNOW YOU?
I... WE, LAST NIGHT...
OH, RIGHT. WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER MY NAME?
IF YOU'RE TRYING OUT FOR THE TEAM, LET ME SAVE YOU SOME TIME. YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO MAKE IT.
W-WHAT?
I DON'T SLEEP WITH GUYS ON THE TEAM.
BUT--I THOUGHT WE HAD SOMETH--

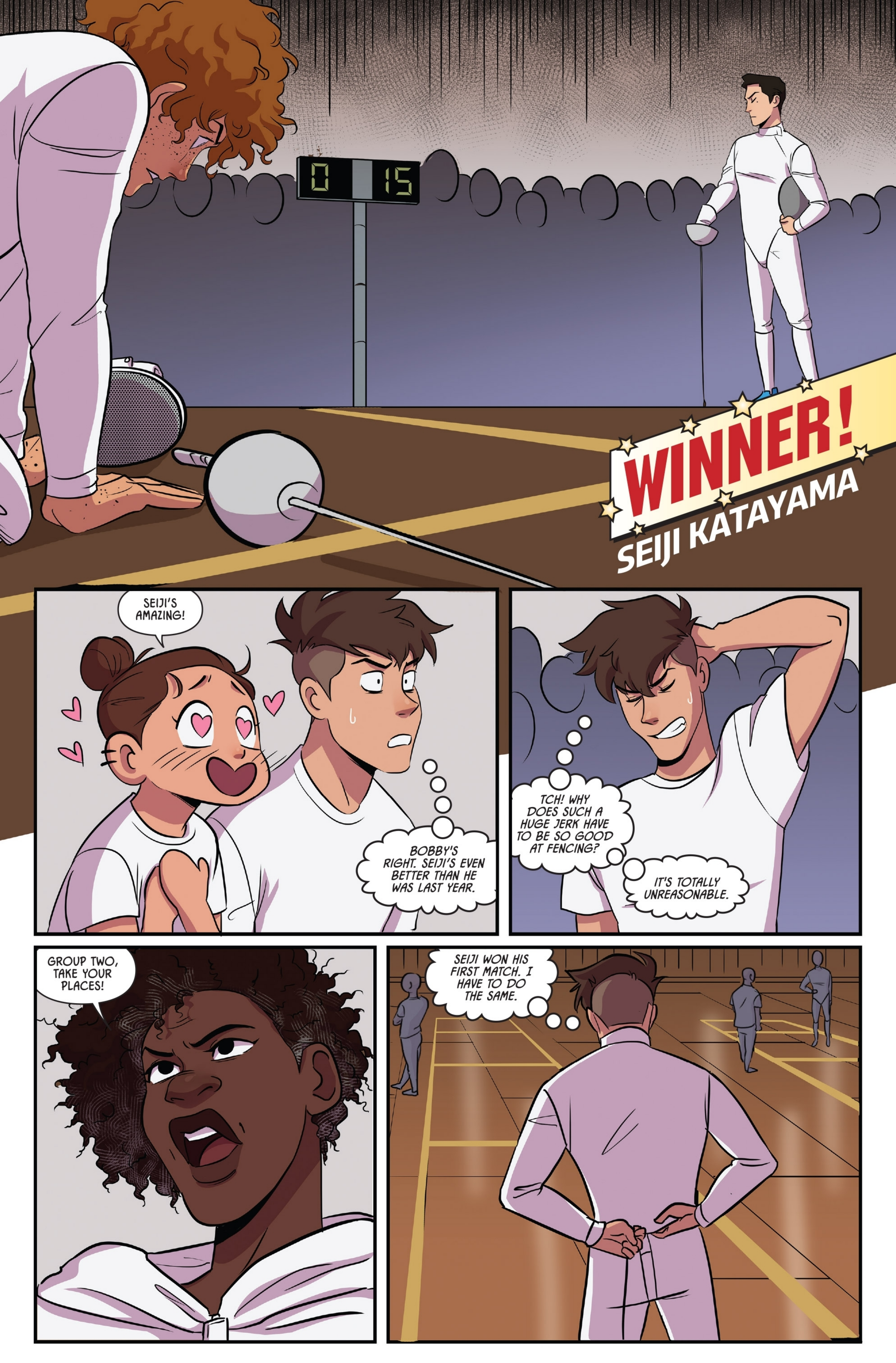

LISTEN, IT WAS FUN FOR A NIGHT, BUT LET'S NOT PRETEND IT WAS MORE THAN IT WAS.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER.
THAT WAS COLD.
ANOTHER AIDEN CASUALTY.
HE SHOULD COME WITH A WARNING.
JAY! IGNORE HIM. FOCUS ON YOUR OWN MATCH.
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO FENCE. DON'T LET AIDEN SCREW IT UP FOR YOU.
HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT--
SHUT UP! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US?
I KNOW AIDEN. I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE WE WERE FIVE.
HARVARD, HONESTLY. WHY DO YOU WASTE YOUR TIME ON THOSE LOSERS?
YOU KNOW HE HAS NO CHANCE TO MAKE THE TEAM.
JAY'S NOT A LOSER.
JAY! THAT WAS HIS NAME.

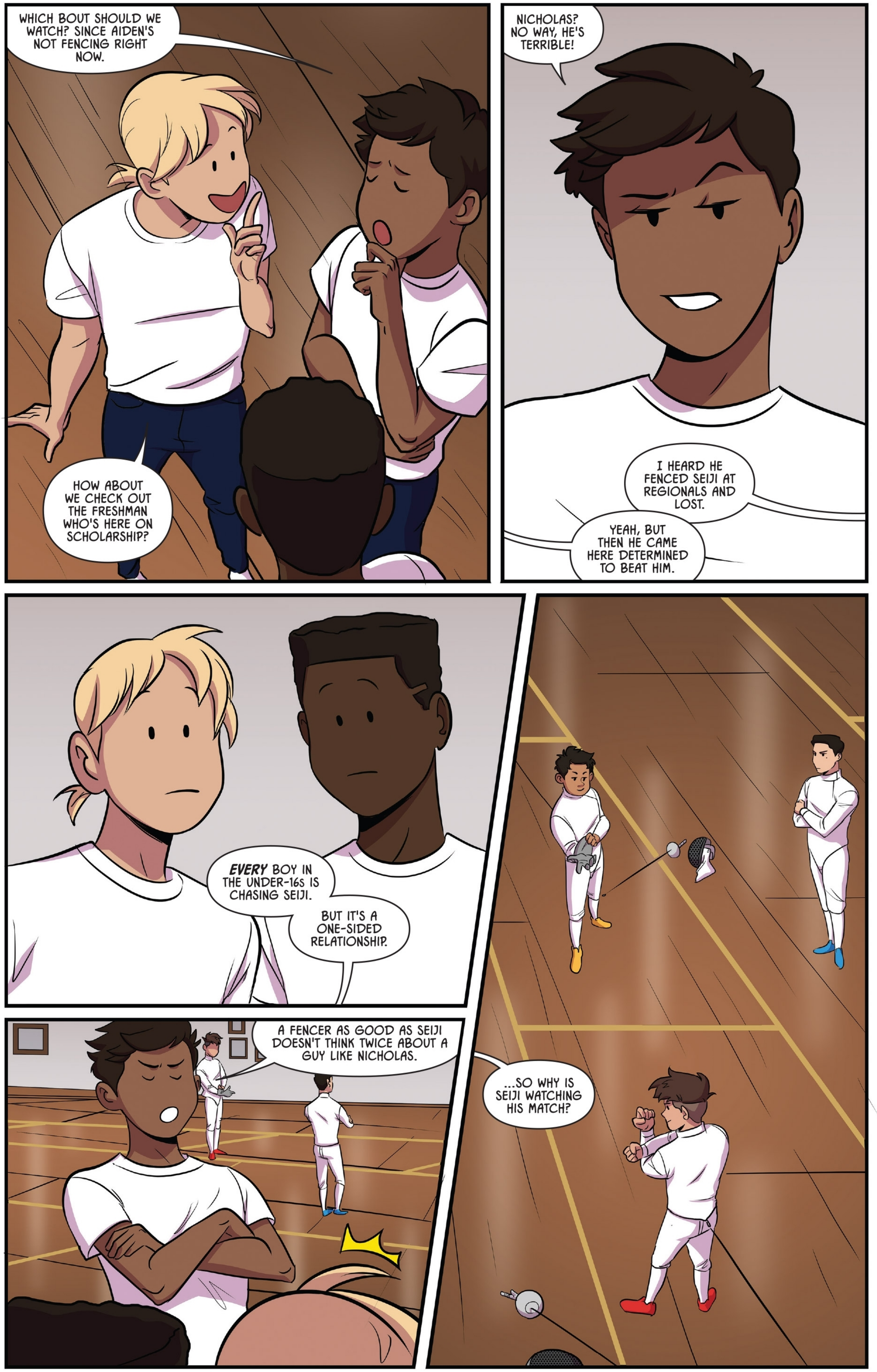

ROUND
MATCH UP
FINAL SCORE
WINNER
1 BOBBY RODRIGUEZ VS HARVARD LEE
1 JAY JONES VS BON PROFUSE
1 EUGENE LABAO VS NICHOLAS COX
1 SEIJI KATAYAMA VS TANNER REED
NATHAN HILLSTROM VS ZAYN HAMEED
ANTONIO MAIUTO
GROUP ONE, YOU'RE UP FIRST.
GOOD LUCK. FENCE YOUR BEST. EVERY MATCH FROM HERE OUT COUNTS.

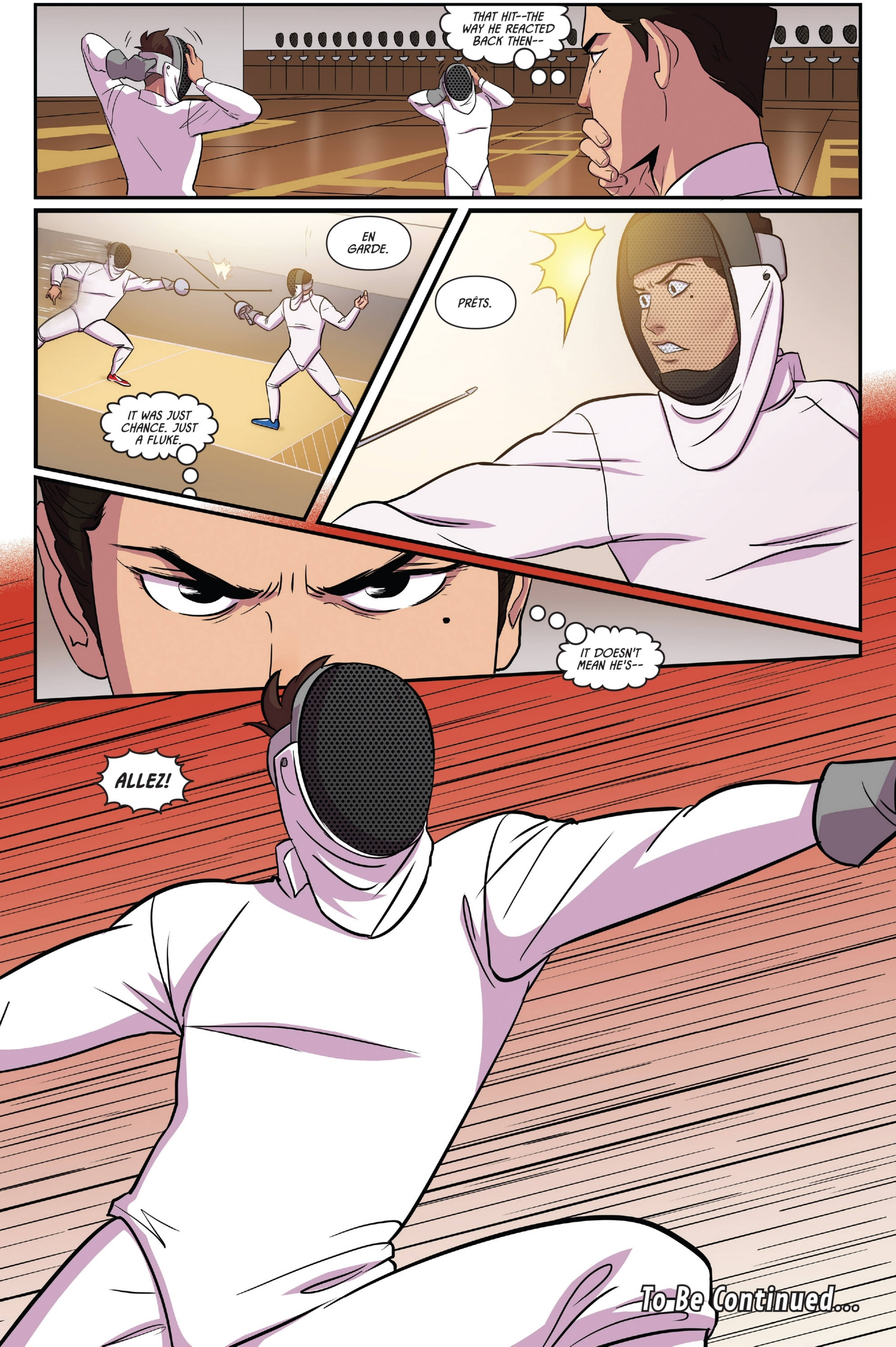

THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PISTES FOR EVERYONE TO FENCE AT ONCE.
SO THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO WATCH THE OTHER FENCERS.


OF COURSE EVERYONE IS WATCHING SEIJI.
EN GARDE.
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN HIM PRACTICE...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME TO REALLY WATCH HIM FENCE.
PRÊTS.


ALLEZ!
HE'S SO GOOD.
HE'S SO GOOD IT HURTS.
"I'M SO FAR AHEAD OF YOU THAT I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN SEE ME AT ALL."
THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S MORE LIKE...
...WHEN HE FENCES...
...YOU CAN'T LOOK AT ANYONE ELSE.


0 15
WINNER!
SEIJI KATAYAMA
SEIJI'S AMAZING!
BOBBY'S RIGHT. SEIJI'S EVEN BETTER THAN HE WAS LAST YEAR.
TCH! WHY DOES SUCH A HUGE JERK HAVE TO BE SO GOOD AT FENCING?
IT'S TOTALLY UNREASONABLE.
GROUP TWO, TAKE YOUR PLACES!
SEIJI WON HIS FIRST MATCH. I HAVE TO DO THE SAME.


WHICH BOUT SHOULD WE WATCH? SINCE AIDEN'S NOT FENCING RIGHT NOW.
HOW ABOUT WE CHECK OUT THE FRESHMAN WHO'S HERE ON SCHOLARSHIP?
NICHOLAS? NO WAY, HE'S TERRIBLE!
I HEARD HE FENCED SEIJI AT REGIONALS AND LOST.
YEAH, BUT THEN HE CAME HERE DETERMINED TO BEAT HIM.
EVERY BOY IN THE UNDER-16s IS CHASING SEIJI.
BUT IT'S A ONE-SIDED RELATIONSHIP.
A FENCER AS GOOD AS SEIJI DOESN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT A GUY LIKE NICHOLAS.
...SO WHY IS SEIJI WATCHING HIS MATCH?


THAT HIT--THE WAY HE REACTED BACK THEN--
EN GARDE.
IT WAS JUST CHANCE. JUST A FLUKE.
PRÊTS.
IT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S--
ALLEZ!
To Be Continued...

BOOM! STUDIOS™ **DISCOVER** YOURS

JANUARY RELEASES AND NEWS

NEW STORY ARC, NEW THREATS

MECH CADET YU

THE RISE OF A VILLAIN

PLANET OF THE APES: URSUS

ICYMI: LUMBERJANES

TRACK A JACKALOPE

ALSO THIS MONTH

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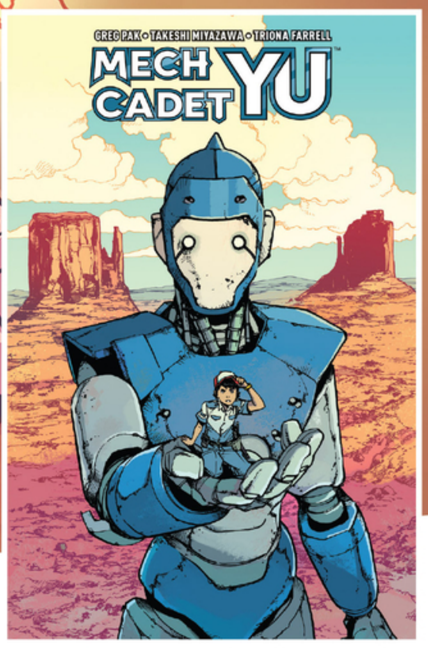
NEW STORY ARC, NEW THREATS

MECH CADET YU

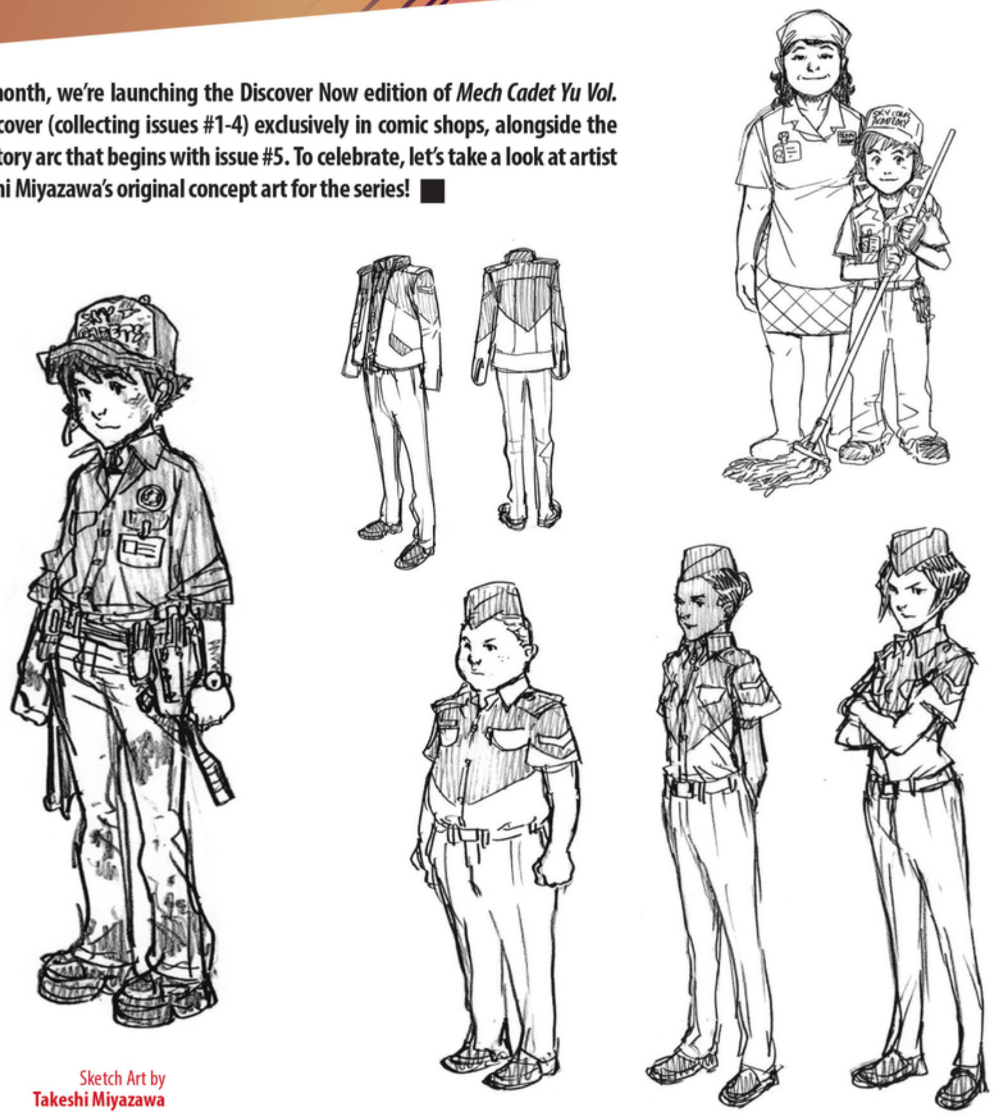
SANCHEZ
OLIVETTI

Stanford has come a long way from his days as a janitor at Sky Corps Academy. He's bonded with his robo mech, Buddy, and faced down an alien Sharg with his fellow Cadets... against orders. Unfortunately, their insubordination means Stanford, Park, and the others are grounded. The cadets continue to train under Captain Skip Tanaka in secret, but it's not long before the Sharg strike again—this time, in a form mankind has never seen before.

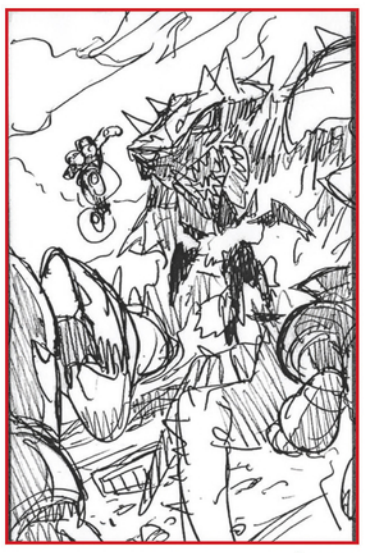


Mech Cadet Yu Vol. 1 Discover Now Edition SC
Takeshi Miyazawa

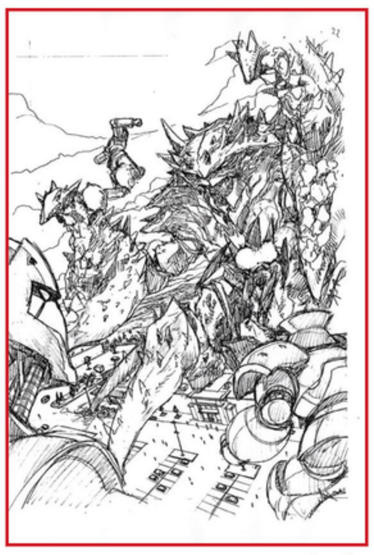
This month, we're launching the Discover Now edition of *Mech Cadet Yu Vol. 1* softcover (collecting issues #1-4) exclusively in comic shops, alongside the new story arc that begins with issue #5. To celebrate, let's take a look at artist Takeshi Miyazawa's original concept art for the series! ■



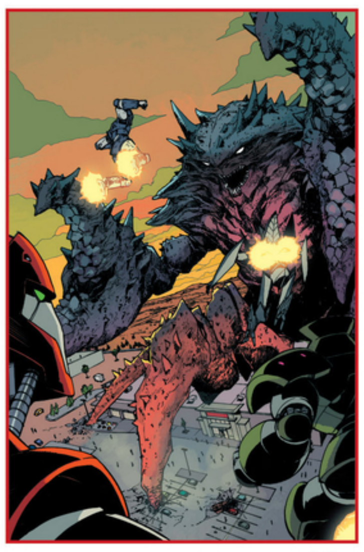
Sketch Art by
Takeshi Miyazawa



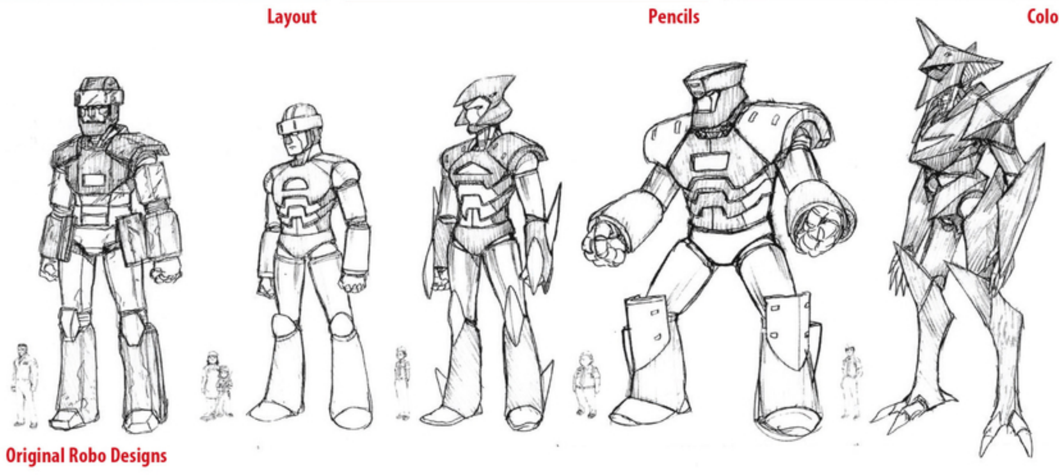
Layout



Pencils



Colors



Original Robo Designs

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ICYMI: LUMBERJANES

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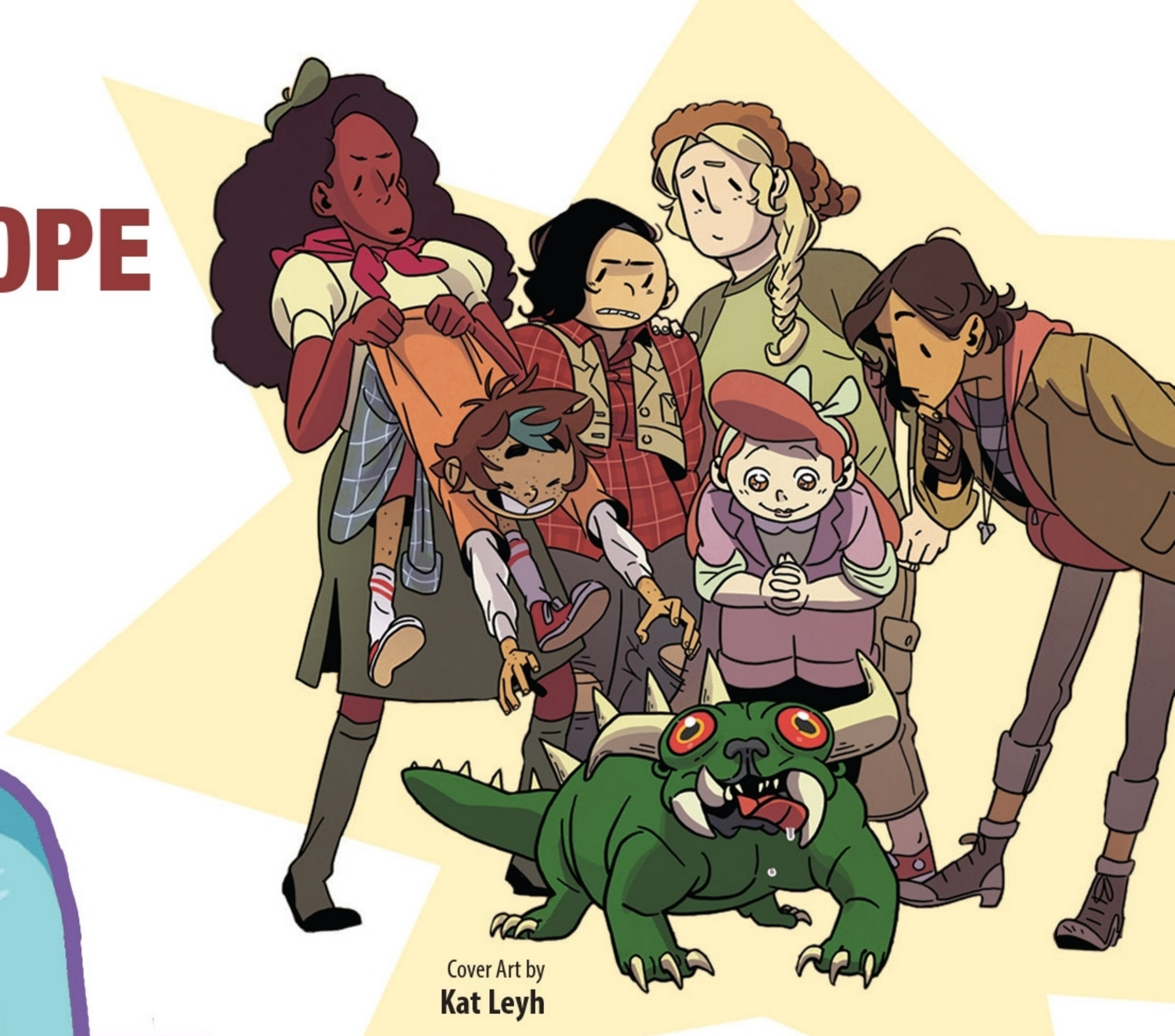

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MATTHEW LEVINE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Currently Watching: The *Child's Play* franchise.

Movie I Can Quote By Heart: *Back to the Future.*

Currently Reading: *Songs of Kali* by Dan Simmons.

Food I'd Wrestle A Bear For: A pastrami sandwich from Langer's Deli.

Favorite Travel Destination: New Orleans, LA.

Secret talent: Horseback riding.

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA.